

**Armchair Detectives**

5 February at 12:31 ·



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Sophie McDonnell and 103 others

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**Stuart Kelly** YES day made!

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Stephanie McDonald I don't think I ever really realised just how much the internet and social media can impact crime. Scary to think that the apps I use every day to pass the time are being used by some to murder!! Creepy stuff!

Like · Reply · 4d

**Rachael Horwitz** I never knew about this. Incredible

Like · Reply · 4d



Lisa J Burns Fantastic book, would highly recommend. Love the videos and 999 calls, really makes it so much more real!

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Armchair Detectives

Armchair Detectives delves into the world of internet detectives and explores the use of the internet and social media to both commit and solve crimes. Shows such as Netflix's *Making a Murderer* and more recently *The Keepers* have resulted in a resurgence of interest in the 'true crime' genre.

The easy and open access provided by the internet has resulted in a growing community of internet detectives or 'web sleuths' who attempt to help solve cold cases, missing persons and more. Whilst for some it is a interesting hobby, for others it has become an obsession. Sites such as [Websleuths](#), [RBI](#) (Reddit's Bureau of Investigations) and the [Doe Network](#), which are mostly amateur run, provide the internet detective community with a space for discussion and interaction amongst eachother.

They Walk Among Us is a UK based True Crime podcast which served as the inspiration behind this publication. All of the cases covered can be listened to on Season 1 Episodes 9, 15 & 16, Season 2 Episodes 4 & 5 and Bonus Episode 1. They can be listened to for free either on the [They Walk Among Us](#) website or the following sites: iTunes, Stitcher, Spotify, Podcast Addict, Overcast & Pocket Casts.

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1. Grindr Killer



St Margaret's Church [Source: The Guardian]

St Margaret's Church is located in Barking in East London. The church is surrounded by grassland and lies on the same grounds as an abbey which is falling into ruin. During the summer of 2014 the churchyard would be the location where two young men would be found, weeks apart both having died from an apparent overdose of GHB. Both men in their early 20s were similar in stature and openly gay. The police attributed the first death to an accidental overdose on the second to suicide with neither of them being deemed suspicious. One year later a third man fitting the same

description as the previous two was found dead next to the churchyard. The police still believe the three deaths to be separate incidents. It was the body of the fourth man found dead only 500 m from the churchyard in June 2014 that would lead investigators to the front door of Stephen Port.

Stephen Port



Stephen Port [Source: BBC]

Port was born in Southend-on-Sea. When he was a year old, he moved to Dagenham, where he grew up with his parents and older sister Sharon. He was described as being a 'loner' at school. His neighbour, Ryan, described him as having a peculiar, childlike personality, exhibiting odd behaviour as a grown man, such as playing with children's toys. He came out as gay in the mid-2000s.[2] He lived alone in a flat in Barking, London, and worked as a chef at a Stagecoach bus depot in West Ham.[5]

Source: Wikipedia

GHB (Gamma-hydroxybutyrate)

GHB has been used in a medical setting as a general anesthetic and as a treatment for cataplexy, narcolepsy, and alcoholism.[2][3] It is also used illegally as an intoxicant, to try to increase athletic performance, and as a date rape drug.[4]

GHB is often taken because users find that it enhances their experiences of being in a club, party, or rave; small doses of GHB can act as a stimulant and aphrodisiac. GHB is sometimes referred to as liquid ecstasy, lollipops, liquid X or liquid E due to its tendency to produce euphoria and sociability and its use in the dance party scene.

The drug is sometimes used to numb the other person, making it easier to rape them. When unobtrusively administered in a drink the victim will quickly feel groggy and sleepy, and upon recovery may have an impaired ability to recall memories of events that occurred during the period of intoxication. Consequently, the evidence and the identification of the perpetrator of rape is often difficult.

Source: Wikipedia

Thursday June 19th 2014, 4:18 a.m.

When the emergency services arrived they found a young man in the sitting position placed against the wall and a black shoulder bag contained a bottle of liquid which was later found to be GHB. His mobile phone was nowhere to be seen and there was no obvious signs he had been injured or assaulted other than his top which showed indications that someone may have dragged him by his clothing. The phone call was made by Stephen Port.

Stephen made a witness statement contradicting his prior phone call that said after he came back to his property at 4 a.m. he found the man lying in front of his flat he had made attempts to wake up the young man by slapping him on the face and then propping him up against the wall after which the young man made a gurgling sound. Oddly after Stephen had contacted the police he went inside his home and fell asleep only to be awoken by the officers attending the scene. After taking Stephens statement officers began an investigation to establish who the individual was.

Anthony Walgate



Anthony Walgate [Source: ITV]

Fashion student Anthony Walgate, 23, was originally from Hull but was renting a room in Golders Green, London, while studying at Middlesex University.

He occasionally worked as a male escort via a website called Sleepyboys which is how he came into contact with Stephen Port, who offered him £800 for an overnight date. Mr Walgate was cautious about the offer and told his friend Ellie Green details "in case I get killed", he told her. He told her as an extra precaution he had a small knife but was going to take scissors with him.

June 26th, 2014

The police decided to arrest Stephen Port. Stephen was interviewed over two days he made little deviations from his original account.

Stephen to Police Officers

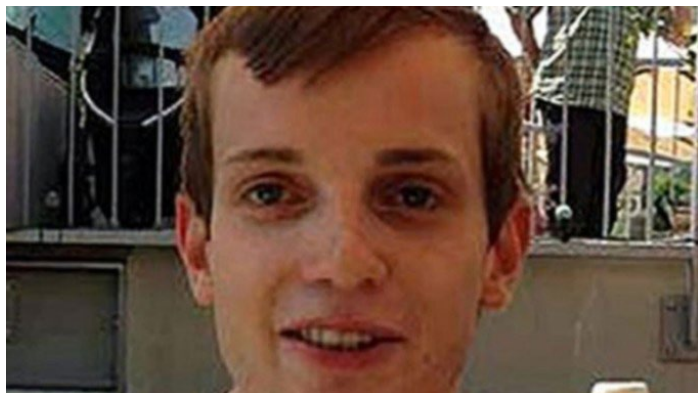
'Can I just say for the scenario if it was an accident and if he did have a fit at my place is that still my fault?'

Eventually after a series of denials Stephen finally admitted that he contacted Anthony through an escort website called sleepyboy. Anthony arrived at Barking Station just before 10:15 p.m. and the two made their way to Stephens flat. Stephen explained to police the once Anthony arrived at his flat he consumed some drugs he'd brought with him. The two men have sex but Anthony became lethargic when he was about to leave and passed out. The following day Stephen states he went to work leaving the snoring Anthony in bed and returned to find him still fast asleep Stephen also went to bed and discovered Anthony rigid at 3 a.m.

On June 19th he explained to police that he panicked, dragged Anthony outside his property in Barking and dialed 999. Police searched Stephens home, seized his laptop and took a sample of his DNA along with blood and urine. Trace amounts of GHB were found in his system and he was bailed with the CPS deciding whether or not to charge him with perverting the course of justice.

The police liaised the homicide assessment team however despite protests from Anthony's friends the case was not seen as a murder. A pathologist concluded that the GHB levels in Anthony's body were so high that his death was by toxicity. After Stephen was placed on bail in February 2015 he pleaded guilty to charges of perverting the course of justice at Snaresbrook Crown Court and was sentenced 8 months in prison. The prosecutors stated there is no suggestion that Mr Port had any criminal responsibility for the death of the young man. Despite Anthony's family believing that his death was highly suspicious and pleading for police to interrogate Stephen Ports computer, investigators deemed Anthony's death self-inflicted and Stephen was released with an electronic tag on June 4th 2015.

Gabriel Kovari



Gabriel Kovari [Source: ITV]

Gabriel Kovari moved to London in 2014. The 22 year old was a smart and sweet natured Slovakian would had been living in Spain with his boyfriend Thierry. He had graduated from the University of Košice and hoped to find work in the UK's national health service or the police force.

Once in the UK he found it difficult to locate permanent accommodation. After bonding with South Londoner John Pape through a social networking site he was offered a place to stay at John's flat in summer of 2014. John helped Gabriel get on his feet, assisting him to set up a bank account and the two men enjoyed

each other's company. They would watch films together and go out for the odd drink. They live together for 6 weeks until Gabriel found a flatshare in Barking.

Gabriel moved to Barking on August 23rd 2014 but didn't tell his landlord where exactly he was moving to. John didn't want to pry so didn't ask where Gabriel was headed but merely wished his friend good luck.

[August 26th] Jon to Gabriel

JP: Hey, hows it going in Barking?

[August 28th] Gabriel replying to Jon

GK: I'm fine :)

Ryan Edwards

Ryan was Stephens neighbour and had met Stephen back in 2005. He found him to have a childlike quality, a love of recreational drugs and an obsession with boyish young men. Ryan was also aware that Stephen had a dark side after being told that Stephen had been violent towards some of his previous partners.

[August 24th] Stephen to Ryan

Stephen Port offers to introduce him to his '*new Slovakian twink flatmate*'

[August 25th] Gabriel to Ryan

GK: Stephen is not a nice person

[August 26th] Ryan and Stephen

RE: How is Gabriel?

SP: gone to stay with another local guy... some soldier guy he had been chatting to online

August 28th 2014, Morning

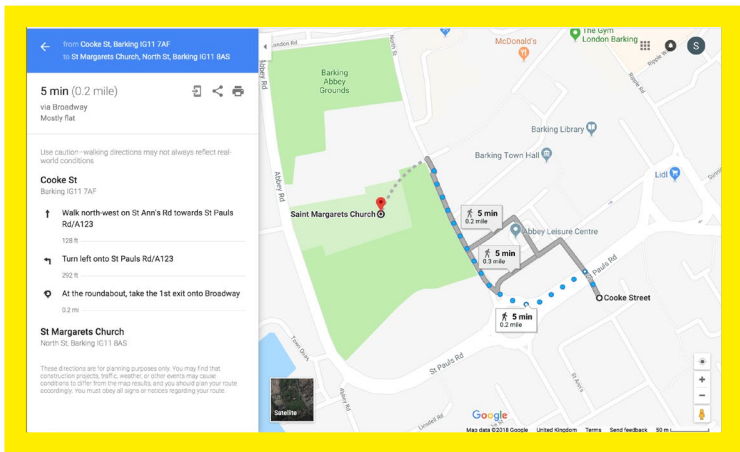
Barbara Denham was out walking her dog. She began to walk through the side entrance of St Margaret's Church in Barking, she noticed in the distance a man wearing dark glasses sat in an upright position in the south-west corner of the graveyard. Wondering what he was doing there, Barbara walked past but he didn't seem to acknowledge her presence. She felt the urge to walk back to make sure he was ok. When she got closer she clapped her hands loudly however

there was no reaction. She noticed his glasses were placed without any care on his face so she touched his cheek gently to try and rouse him but he felt cold to the touch. It dawned on her the man was dead. She informed police immediately who kept Barbara on the phone until they arrived at the scene.

Only 5 days after Gabriel had moved into Stephens property he'd been found dead a stones throw from Stephens flat. Gabriel had a small bottle of GHB in his pocket and his mobile phone was missing.

John Pape, Gabriel's former landlord, was the first be informed of his passing by four police officers who arrived at his home in South London. As he had helped Gabriel set up his bank account, this was his last known address and they told John that Gabriel have been found in a cemetery and died of an overdose of GHB. John couldn't believe what he had been told. Gabriel hadn't seemed the self destructive type. He thought maybe he died from exposure, however as it was August this was unlikely. In a state of shock and disbelief at the circumstances surrounding Gabriel's death, John ended up searching the internet for more details.

Source: *Barking and Dagenham Post*



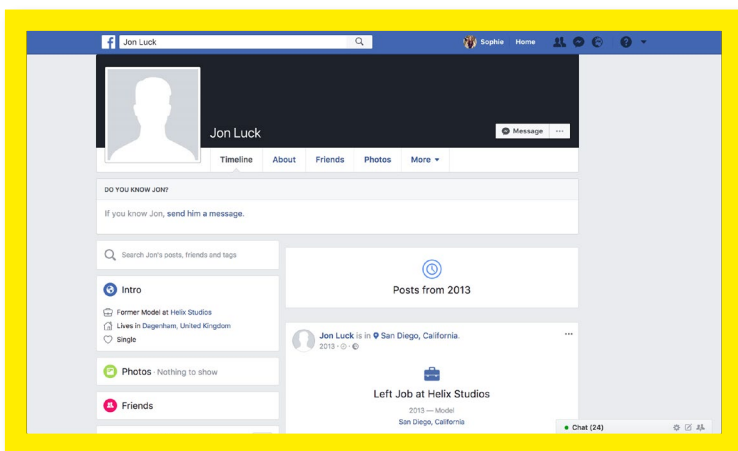
He was almost sure there was a connection between the deaths of the two young men. He decided to check Gabriel's Facebook page to find out if there are any further details that his friends and family may have posted, so he could understand what had happened to his friend. They appeared to be in the dark as much as John.

Through Facebook John message Gabriel's former boyfriend Thierry. As coincidence would have it, both been searching for more details to understand what had happened. They inform police of this other death on Cook Street ,but no action was taken with this information as the police remain steadfast that no link could be found.

As John wasn't next of kin, the police wouldn't have any direct contact with him, so he had to pass what information he had onto Thierry or Gabriel's family. Frustrated by the lack of progress by police, John and Thierry exchanged countless messages sharing what information they could glean from the internet.

Jon Luck

Jon Luck was a 21 year old former American gay porn star who had moved from California to Dagenham in London to study humanities and had started following Gabriel's profile. Looking for some answers, Thierry contacted Jon Luck through Facebook on September 10th to see if he had any details on Gabriel's death. Shocked to find out about Gabriel's death, Jon Luck said he and Gabriel slept together only a few nights before Gabriel was found. They had met through Grindr, a dating app, and after their encounter Gabriel was collected by an Irishman called Tony who drove a Green Toyota.



Jon Luck to Thierry

JL: Will police want to speak to me as my DNA would be on him?

Over the following days the two men conversed by Facebook and Thierry wanted to know more about the Irishman who had picked up Gabriel. He asked that Luck get in touch with the Barking and Dagenham police force, he never did.

[September 19th] Jon Luck to Thierry

JL: I text him and asked what happene to Gab and he said h left with a young guy about his age named Dan and they was heading to a party/orgy in Barking... Dan is tall, light brown hair he said,

looks similar to Gab just a bit taller, very slim, when I told him Gab is dead, he said he don't want anything to do with it, leave him alone.

Luck provided further details on Facebook of the orgies that Dan and Gabriel would apparently attend where they would take large amounts of GHB. The parties would be attended by two age groups, young men similar in age to Dan and Gabriel along with those older men who would provide drugs. Those young men would then be expected to take GHB which would cause them to pass out and they would be taking advantage of. Luck suggested these parties could last up to 3 days. Thierry was now desperate to find out who Dan was but didn't have to wait long as the police called him the next day to report that another body had been found.

Tuesday September 20th, 2014

Barbara Denham who had previously discovered Gabriel, was again out walking her dog through the grounds of St Margaret's Church. To her horror she again noticed a young man propped up against the wall in the south-west corner of the graveyard on top of a blue bed sheet. One difference between the two men was the second had a piece of paper tucked inside his top. Barbara touched the man's leg hoping to

wake him up however realising he was dead contacted the police straight away.

Once again there was no sign of the young man's phone but he had a small bottle of GHB in his pocket the letter looked to be a suicide note.

Daniel Whitmore's Suicide Note

I'm sorry to everyone, mainly my family but I can't go on anymore. I took the life of my friend Gabriel Kline, we was just having some fun at a mates place and I got carried away and gave him another shot of G. I didn't notice while we was having sex that he'd stopped breathing, I tried everything to get him to breathe again but it was too late, it was a accident but I blame myself for what happened and I didn't tell my family I went out. I know I would go to prison if I go to the Police and I can't do that to my family and at least this way I can at least be with Gabriel again, I hope he will forgive me.

BTW please do not blame the guy I was with last night, we only had sex then I left, he knows nothing of what I have done. I have taken what g I had left with sleeping pills so if it does kill me its what I deserve. Feeling dizzy now as took 10 min ago so hoping you understand my writing

*I dropped my phone on way here so it should be in
the grass somewhere*

Sorry to everyone.

Love always

Daniel P W

Daniel Whitworth



Daniel Whitworth [Source: ITV]

Daniel was a 21 year old from Gravesend in Kent who had been living with his boyfriend. He was a skilled Chef with big career ambitions working in Canary Wharf. His boyfriend contacted police when he didn't return home. Anyone who knew Daniel couldn't believe that he would take his own life, let alone anyone else's, however as the suicide note was consistent with the findings that Daniel had died of an overdose of GHB and sleeping pills, Police took this at face value.

Daniel's family asked who this other person mentioned in the note was that Daniel had apparently slept with. They were told by police they didn't know and will

likely never know. A pathologist who examined Danielle's body found bruising under his arms which may suggest his body was moved likely after his death, however the Police continue to believe that Daniel's death was it suicide and wasn't suspicious.

As soon as Thierry Gabriel's ex-boyfriend heard the news of Daniel's passing, he contacted Gabriel's former landlord John Pape informing him that another young male had been found dead in the same spot as Gabriel. John Pape believed something must be wrong and was in fear for his own safety. He suspected there could be someone targeting and murdering young gay men, so contacted the police in Barking and Dagenham. He was told the deaths were not linked and they were not being treated as suspicious.

[21st September] Jon Luck to Thierry

JL: Please don't let them arrest me, i will try find a much info as i can to help you... please let me know if you have any more info from the police, names etc.

[22nd September] Jon Luck to Thierry

JL: maybe Dan knew what happened to Gab and could not life with the guilt or something like that.

Little progress was made into the investigation and many believed that the police force was taking little action due to each victim sexual orientation. The families and friends of the victims were adamant that the police were ill prepared to handle the case, believing the officers involved were letting their bias about the men's lifestyles get in the way of providing a thorough investigation.

The following year an inquest into the deaths of Gabriel and Daniel was held on June 23rd 2015 and as John Pape was the last known person to see Gabriel alive, he was summoned along with the parents of Daniel Whitworth. John detailed the information that he had discovered in which he believed young gay men will be drugged and sexually assaulted.

Stephen Port victim's landlord: 'I felt I hit a brick wall with the police'

As Met police officers face investigation over handling of case, John Pape describes how he tried to raise the alarm

Source: The Guardian

Further revelations during the inquest were highlighted that there had been no confirmed telephone contact between Gabriel and Daniel. The Coroner asked detectives if the note found at the scene have been analysed by handwriting expert to ensure that the handwriting matched any samples previously written by Daniel. It hasn't. Police had instead recorded that his family had validated the night, this came as a shock to Daniel's family as they most certainly had not as they had only seen the last section of the letter which had been scanned and sent via email.

More questions followed for the detective in charge. Had the blue bed sheets on which Daniel had been found sitting been analysed for DNA. He replied it hadn't, asked why the Detective simply replied he didn't feel the need as he didn't believe anyone else was involved at the time. This was despite the identified bruising found under the arms of the young men. Upon reviewing all the evidence, the coroner concluded an open verdict and the possibility of a third person being involved couldn't be ruled out.

September 14th 2015, 1:15 a.m.

A young man was discovered propped up against the wall opposite to the graveyard of St Margaret's Church. He had died from an apparent overdose and

was found along with a syringe, a tourniquet, a small bottle of GHB, some medical wipes and a needle mark in his arm.

Jack Taylor

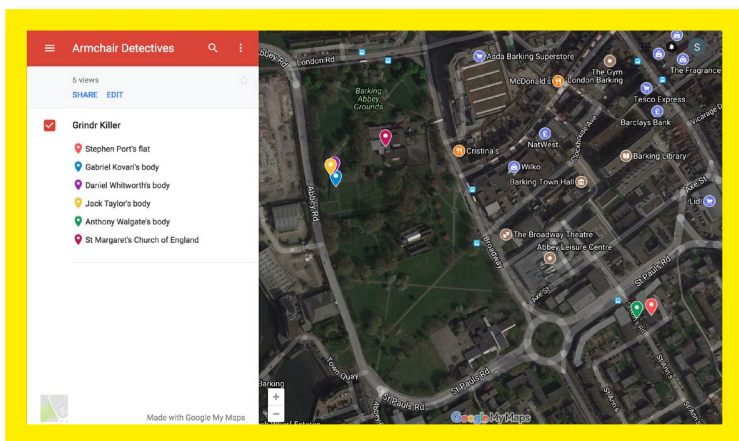


Jack Taylor [Source: ITV]

Jack Taylor was a 25 year old forklift truck driver. He lived with his mother, father and two sisters in Dagenham and was described as the life and soul of the family. On Saturday September 12th Jack had been out drinking, once he got home started messaging someone on the dating app Grindr and had agreed to meet. There are scant details of what happened that night, however after meeting this mystery man Jack was never heard from again. The Police believe there was nothing suspicious about his death because of the cumulative effect of GHB and alcohol.

Jack's family did not agree with the pathologists findings that he had died from self-inflicted overdose as he would have risked his job if he had taken drugs. His family began to search online for what might have happened to Jack, walking the same route he was meant to have taken and they constantly ask the police force for updates on the investigation into his death.

For the weeks that followed it seemed little or no investigation have been undertaken by Police. Unhappy with this, Jack's sisters started an investigation of their own. They reviewed the local paper and Googled the area around where Jack was found. They learned three other young men have been discovered in similar circumstances.



They questioned the Police to understand if there were been any links between these young men but they were told there was no connection and yet again the police repeated their stance that those men died from an overdose, be it accidental or self-inflicted. In a state of frustration Jack's sisters would simply not take no for an answer. They pestered the police force asking for details of Jack's last movements.

Finally, 14 days after his death, they were informed the police had in fact obtain CCTV footage of Jack on multiple cameras walking with a tall blond man from Barking Station prior to his death. Hoping for some answers, the family asked if the police had confirmed the identity the man seen in the footage. Frustratingly they were told that no further investigation into the identity of the man had been completed as the footage showed the two men had parted ways before Jack headed to the area in which he had apparently taken his own life.



CCTV still of Port & Jack

The family demanded the police review the footage again and managed to convince a Sergeant to take another look. After the footage had been analysed again, it looked as though the police had followed the pair up until a point they had moved out of view and had to pick up the trail on another camera. The Sergeant realised that they had been tracking a totally different individual when a new camera was utilised. He found further footage of the pair that hadn't originally been seen. The police were initially reluctant to release the footage as they were treating the death as non-suspicious.

October 13th, 2015

Police finally released an image of the man seen in the CCTV footage to the public. While police received a number of tips, it was a police officer who identified the man.

October 15th, 2015

A 40-year-old was arrested in connection with not only Jack's death but also the death three other young men. The man's name was Stephen Port.

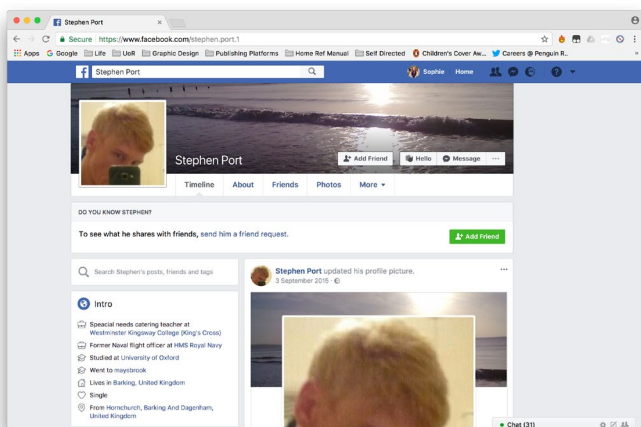
Stephen Port: Serial killer guilty of murdering four men

A serial killer has been found guilty of murdering four young men by poisoning them with lethal doses of date rape drug.

Source: BBC

After new evidence had been uncovered, the police had their suspect in custody. Stephen Port, 6 ft 3 in and speaks in a soft voice, often being asked to repeat himself when questioned. He wears a blonde toupee

as he is almost entirely bald. On his Facebook page it's listed that he attended the University of Oxford between 2000-2003, working as a teacher for a special needs class at Westminster Kingsway College in King's Cross.



Stephen was bullied throughout his time at the school and when he was 16 he decided to go to Art College, however his parents couldn't afford to continue to support their son so over the next two years he trained as a Chef. He worked in the kitchen for a local business that catered for weddings and events before finding a job as a cook in a West Ham bus garage where he prepared food for the employees. Around 2000 Steven

came out as gay to his parents and when he was 31 he moved out of his parents home in Dagenham. He found a small flat on Cook Street in Barking. He had an obsession with Transformers and would often take trips to Toys R Us to pick up the latest toys placing them on display in his flat. As he was no longer under his parents roof this allowed in more freedom to have friends round for parties and his partners could now stay the night.

Stephens life would slowly start to unravel as he began to take GHB more frequently and it was around this time he began to work as a male escort. Stephen set up a number of social media profiles, sometimes using his own name sometimes using a pseudonym. Through the use of online dating sites he would look for encounters with young men. He had a preference for those that appeared young and in vulnerable situations, during the encounters he would often take pictures of the men asleep in bed then post the photos online. Stephen also searched the internet for pornography in which the victim had been sedated or incapacitated. When Stephen was 37 in early 2012 he began using Grindr a dating app that is predominantly used by gay and bisexual men.





• Stephen, 30

0 common friends | 0 interests in common



Location

Barking, Greater London (~29 miles away)

Stephen Port's dating profile

Peter

Stephen started conversing with a University student who shall be referred to as Peter (this is not his real name). Peter had just turned 19 when the two men spent the night together in February. Peter described Stephen as polite and friendly and he didn't feel like he was in any danger at this point. When they arrived at Stephen's flat the mood was relaxed. Stephen put on an animated film in the front room and the two had a glass of wine. Peter drank the wine which he thought was overly bitter and slightly salty, he believed the taste was attributed to it being a cheap brand but when he finished the drink he noticed there was a substance in the bottom of glass. Peter protested to Stephen who told him that the wine must have been off and offered him another drink almost immediately.

Peter began to feel disorientated and fatigued. Stephen suggested that he lie down and Peter fell asleep on the sofa. Stephen tried to raise him and suggested that he sleep it off in Stephens bedroom. After doing so Peter would pass in and out of consciousness but clearly remembers Stephen sexually assaulting him but he was unable to move.

When he awoke in the morning he felt tired weak and confused. He was terrified and could only remember segments of the previous evening. Stephen drove

him to Barking tube station and dropped him off. He made no acknowledgement about what had just happened the night before. Peter mention the incident to a friend once he returned to University and sought the advice of medical experts believing he had been drugged. After the incident the two again spoke over Grindr and Peter accused Stephen of spiking his drink.

Stephen Port to Peter

Prove it

Ali

In early June 2014 Stephen have been speaking to another young man in his early 20s through Fitlads, a gay dating website.



Stephen Port's Fitlads dating profile

He shall be referred to as Ali (this is not his real name). The two met. On the first three occasions, the circumstances of the meetings were relaxed, unremarkable even. They watched TV and Ali described Stephen to be a very nice guy. On the fourth meeting Ali was offered a drink of Coke by Stephen after turning down something alcoholic as he was a Muslim and did not drink.

As soon as he consumed the liquid he felt a burning sensation in his throat but no other ill effects. Stephen denied putting anything in his drink and Ali believed him thinking nothing more of it. They met for a fifth time and both Stephen and Ali took poppers.

Poppers

Poppers is a slang term given broadly to the chemical class called alkyl nitrites, that are inhaled for recreational drug purposes, typically for the "high" or "rush" that the drug can create. Poppers have also been historically used for sexual encounters among the youth, including in the gay community.

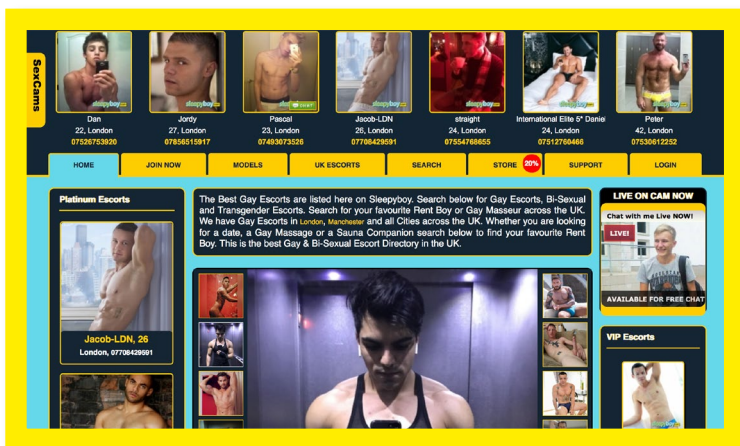
Source: Wikipedia

Ali fell asleep for a short time but once he awoke Stephen offered him a drink of water. Unfortunately this clear liquid wasn't water. The drink quickly ren-

dered Ali unconscious. In a state of alarm and noticing his clothes had been removed, he made every effort to get back on his feet and get home but he couldn't remember where he or even his own name.

Stephen helped him get to Barking tube station by holding him up however with the effects of the drug still in his system he could barely stand. He tried to scream for help but was totally incoherent. Ali and Stephen were met by the British Transport Police who called an ambulance. Stephen explained to paramedics that Ali had arrived at his flat in this state although Stephen seemed anxious and extremely nervous when talking to the police.

Stephen explained that Ali had taken drugs and he was looking after him. Although Ali was clearly intoxicated, both men were allowed to leave. Ali didn't report the incident to the police as he hadn't told his parents he was gay, fearing what they might think. Just two weeks after this assault on Ali, Stephen met Anthony Walgate through Sleepyboy's website.



Anthony did not die from an accidental overdose. Stephen had deliberately administered GHB to Anthony and disposed of his mobile phone, staging the scene with drug paraphernalia. Only two months later in August 2014, Gabriel Kovari move to Stephen's flat. Stephen had again deliberately administered GHB to Gabriel, took his body to St Margaret's Church, a four minute walk from his flat and again staged the scene so as to look like a drug overdose and disposed of Gabriel's phone. A month after Gabriel's body was found, Stephen met up with Daniel Whitworth after the two begun messaging each other through Fitlads. Stephen gave GHB to Daniel who died as result. Stephen deleted his Fitlads account to try and remove any evidence that he had made contact with Daniel. After taking Daniel's body to St Margaret's Church he again staged it to seem to look like an overdose but this time left a

note implicating Daniel in the death of Gabriel. Despite protests from Daniel's family, the police remained of the belief that Daniel was involved in Gabriel's death and it wasn't treated as suspicious.

During the month of September Stephen began a conversation with Jack Taylor through Grindr. The two agreed to meet. Jack's body was later found propped up against the wall of St Margaret's Church with fatal levels of GHB in his system. The pathologist concluded that as he'd been drinking the night before he was found, it was likely he had died of an overdose as when alcohol is mixed with GHB it can have a cumulative effect. Jack's Grindr account was deleted the same day his body was found. Even with the coincidences in which the four young men were found dead so close together in or around the same churchyard, it did not give rise to the suspicions of police and no link was made despite the friends and family pointing out the similarities on a frequent basis.

Stephen's arrest

Over a period of four days, Stephen was interviewed by officers. He repeated the same story he previously told about Anthony Walgate. He denied being involved in the death of Gabriel Kovari and denied administering drugs to anyone.

During the first day of interviews Stephen's story shifted and began to echo the same information provided by Jon Luck, the man who had been conversing on Facebook with Thierry (Gabriel Kovari's ex-boyfriend). Stephen spoke of gatherings where young men were being given drugs and then sexually assaulted by older men once they had passed out. Stephen admitted to police he was at the parties, arranged by someone called Scott.

October 18th, 2015



Stephen Port was charged with the murders of Anthony Walgate, Gabriel Kovari, Daniel Whitworth and Jack Taylor. As the UK press began to run stories on Stephen, a number of the men who were sexually assaulted by him bravely came forward to police. The more police uncovered about the secret life of Stephen Port, the more his crimes were being brought to light.

After finally testing the blue bed sheet on which Daniel Whitworth was found, they discovered that it had come directly from Stephens bedroom and his DNA was present. The sunglasses worn by Gabriel Kovari were also tested for DNA and again a sample

was found which match Stephens. The suicide note apparently written by Daniel Whitworth was analysed by a handwriting expert who concluded it was in fact written by Stephen Port, the paper on which the letter was written and a sleeve in which it was found were taken from Stephens flat.

Further evidence included a mobile phone discovered in Stephens home which contained nearly a hundred videos of him having sex with a man that looked to be unconscious. Apart from the search history found on his laptop, the IP address on his computer was found to be a match to the Facebook profile linked to Jon Luck. Stephen had logged onto the account on two separate computers and convinced Gabriel's former partner that he was concerned, despite telling lie upon lie to further distance himself from the crime but also prolonging the pain and suffering the victims friends and family. Much like the facade that Stephen presented in real life, he was pretending to be someone else.

October 4th, 2016



Court sketch of Stephen Port

Stephen was held at Belmarsh Prison in South East London before his trial began. He denied the 29 charges he was facing, including four counts of murder, administering a substance with intent to rape and sexual assault. During the trial he never looked at the victims families and would seem completely unattached while being questioned about some of the extremely upsetting evidence. He would reply with one worded answers and on some occasions he would be asked to repeat himself he would mumble a response.

He denied being involved in Anthony Walgate's death, again telling the same story he initially told inves-

tigators; Anthony took GHB of his own volition and died as a result. Police had analysed the suicide note found with Daniel Whitworth and a handwriting expert demonstrated that it was beyond a reasonable doubt that Stephen had written the note. After continued denials Stephen admitted that he wrote the letter but only at the behest of Daniel dictating his last words before taking an overdose.

In his initial police interview Stephen had denied ever meeting Jack Taylor but the courtroom was then shown the CCTV footage in which Stephen was quite clearly seen with him. After a moment Stephen then changed the story explaining the Jack had in fact been at his flat and then the two went to St Margaret's Church to have sex. Stephen explained that Jack administered drugs to himself, after which Stephen left and Jack must have died of an overdose.

The evidence was presented over the course of six weeks to a jury of ten women and two men who retired to consider their verdict on November 14th.

Wednesday November 23rd, 2016

After nine days of deliberation, Stephen Port was found guilty of the murders of Anthony Walgate, Gabriel Kovari, Daniel Whitworth and Jack Taylor. He was

also found guilty of ten offences which included administering a substance with intent to rape and sexual assault. As the first verdict was read out Steven merely side as he was accompanied to his cell.

Calls from the public gallery

'die you piece of shit'

Friday November 25th, 2016

Stephen Port case information

Defendant: Stephen John Port

Source: The Law Pages

Judge Mr Justice Openshaw.

'The defendant has been convicted of the murders of four young men. Each murder was committed

in the course of satisfying his lust for penetrating young men whom he had rendered unconscious by the surreptitious administration of drugs. Having regard to Paragraph 4 of Schedule 21 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, I've no doubt that the seriousness of the offending is so exceptionally high that the whole life order is justified, indeed it is required.'

Despite the incredible similarities between the circumstances in which the victims were found the police were initially unable to link the deaths of the young men.

Commander Stuart Cundy

'The evidence we have heard at the trial of Stephen Port does identify that there were potentially missed opportunities.'

How did police miss Barking serial killer Stephen Port?

Stephen Port has been found guilty of murdering four young gay men and committing a number of drug rapes. But did police miss chances to stop him in his tracks?

Source: BBC



An investigation was launched into the Handling of the case by the IPCC which is ongoing this so far analysed over 700 documents and 200 statements. Seventeen officers are being investigated for potential misconduct. In January 2017 the families of the murder victims made an appeal for further witnesses as they could be seeking legal action against the Metropolitan Police force in their handling of the case.

Families of Stephen Port's victims seek witnesses for possible action against police

Officers initially failed to link deaths of four young men killed by serial killer, despite striking similarities

Source: The Guardian

15th March, 2017

Cindy Butts (IPCC Commissioner)

'Over the coming weeks, our investigators will be undertaking interviews with the seventeen officers who have been served with notices as part of the investigation. These interviews are an important milestones in the investigation as we continue to build the picture of the police response to the deaths...in an investigation of this magnitude, centred upon the tragic murders of four dearly missed young men every piece of information counts and we continue to wish to hear from anyone who can assist this important work'

Stephen Port murders - Metropolitan Police Service

This is an investigation into the Metropolitan Police Service's initial response to the deaths of four men in Barking, East London, between June 2014 and September 2015.

Source: IPCC

The crimes of Stephen Port of cast a long shadow over Scotland Yard. They're also examining 58 other unexplained deaths involving GHB across London over a four-year period. Their investigation is ongoing.

If you are a member of the LGBT community and have experienced a hate crime, domestic abuse or sexual violence in the UK you can contact [Galop](#), an LGBT anti violence charity, or you can also contact the national LGBT domestic abuse helpline on 0800 999 5428.

2. U want me 2 kill him??

The Secret Intelligence Service has been at the forefront of intelligence gathering throughout both World Wars the Cold War and War on Terror. Most secret agents travel the globe leaving no stone unturned, however far from their cinematic counterparts like James Bond, they do not have a licence to kill. So why would this Government Agency want to assassinate a 14-year-old boy from Greater Manchester?

[Due to a court order the identities of the individuals discussed in this podcast have been changed given their young age at the time of the offences]

Secret Intelligence Service (MI6)

The Secret Intelligence Service (SIS), commonly known as MI6, is the foreign intelligence service of the government of the United Kingdom, tasked mainly with the covert overseas collection and analysis of human intelligence (HUMINT) in support of the UK's national security...The stated priority roles of SIS are counter-terrorism, counter-proliferation, providing intelligence in support of cyber security, and supporting stability overseas to disrupt terrorism and other criminal activities.

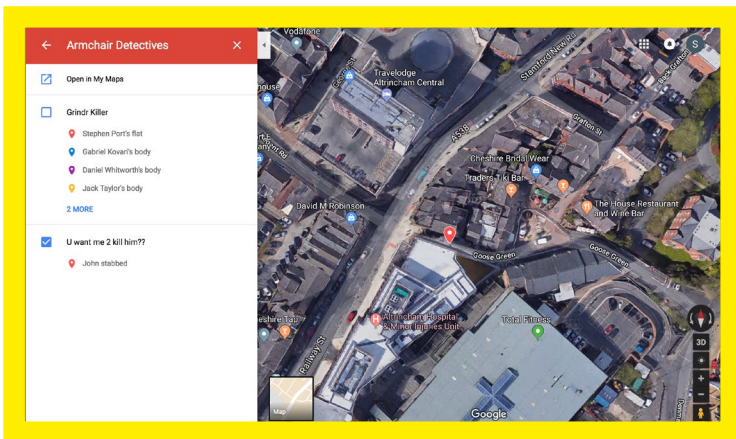
Source: Wikipedia



MI6 [Secret Intelligence Service] Building [Source: Wikipedia]

Sunday June 29th, 2003

Mark, 16, and John, 14, were spending the day together and strolled along talking. At roughly 8 p.m. they walked towards an alleyway at the back of some shops in the town centre of Altrincham, a market town in Trafford, Greater Manchester.



As they entered the alley, they were attacked by a person dressed entirely in black. The aggressor tried to grab John and drag him into an adjoining alley. In the tussle, the attacker produced a knife and stabbed John, first in the chest penetrating his rib cage and then lunging a second time stabbing his abdomen. The second wound was 6 inches deep and pierced

both his kidney and his liver. The attack fled the scene and John crumpled to the floor. His physical assault was witnessed by John's friend, Mark, who called the emergency services on his mobile phone.

Paramedics arrived swiftly and found John barely clinging to life. Blood had pooled inside a cavity which constricted the movement of his diaphragm and disabled his lungs from functioning. Once at the hospital, surgeons and nurses fought to keep the 14-year-old alive. John died twice on the operating table. His gallbladder was removed he was confined to a hospital bed where a respirator was required to help him breathe.

As John slowly recovered in the Intensive Care Unit at Wythenshawe Hospital in Manchester, his friend Mark recounted details of the attack to the police, describing the assailant as an older man who was dressed in a black hoodie and black jeans. A public appeal was made by the Greater Manchester Police Force in the hope that someone may have noticed the suspect fleeing the scene during the time of the attack.

Julian Ross (Detective Chief Inspector)

'This was a seemingly unprovoked attack'

Knife maniac stabs boy, 14

POLICE are hunting a knifeman who stabbed a 14-year-old boy in an unprovoked attack.

Source: Manchester Evening News

The investigation began with hours of CCTV footage being examined from a single concealed camera which filmed the alleyway in which John was assaulted. John was quite clearly seen with his friend Mark but police could not identify anyone else entering or leaving the alleyway prior to, during, or shortly after the time of the assault.

Footage showed John and Mark heading into the alleyway but then disappearing from view. The teens were alone for 25 minutes until Mark later emerged as he phoned the emergency services. The surveillance camera evidence officers went to see John while he was still in hospital. John changed the story several times until he finally admitted that he'd been stabbed by his friend Mark.

Mark to John whilst stabbing him

M: I love you, bro

J: Call an ambulance! Im dying!

M: Shush.... People will hear, please be quiet

J: You've killed me!

M: Don't say that. Don't let that be the last thing you are saying.

This story seemed most probable considering the visual evidence and so Mark was arrested for attempted murder a month after the incident. Mark was questioned and during his second police interview he buckled and confessed to the stabbing. He explained that he heard voices and that's why he had to attack his friend.

Even with Marks confession, it still didn't sit right with the investigating officers due to John's initial reluctance to name's friend as his attacker. They couldn't see a motive for Mark to inflict John's near fatal injuries, nor could they understand John's misplaced loyalty to Mark in not telling the police it was his friend that attacked him.

They began to look into the friendship and the circumstances in which they had met. Seizing the hard drives from their computers to try and find some answers, the police employed a criminal intelligence analyst

who trawled through over 50,000 lines of text and 133 GB of data across the two computers. 193 separate email addresses are associated with the chatroom the two boys used and at first the police couldn't work out if this came from one person or hundreds.

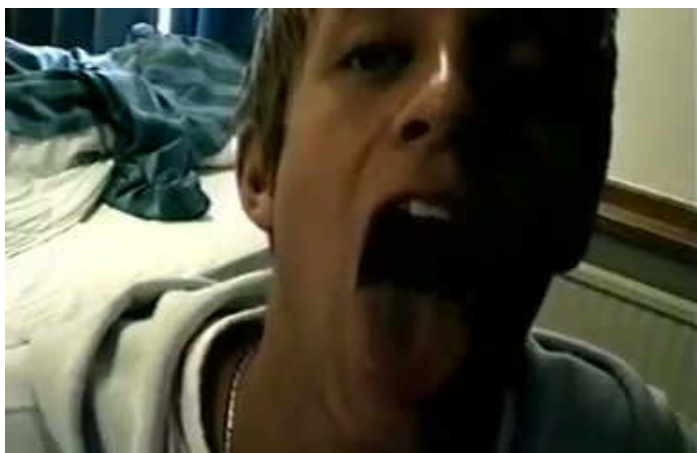
Sally Hogg (Police Analyst)

'The amount of data on those two computers was about 133 gigabytes, masses of data...If converted into a paper pile...it would stretch, I think, 46,000 feet high'

October 2003

Whilst Mark was still in custody, John had returned home from hospital. Investigators finally got a break in the case. The police had been questioning Mark regularly about his involvement in the stabbing and after a number of discussions, he mentioned the name - Janet Dobinson. Investigators wanted to track down Janet to understand who she was and how she became involved with these two boys. They initially thought that Janet, or the person pretending to be Janet, was a paedophile. They cross-referenced the location that Janet had used to sign into the chat

room and tracked this to an IP address associated with John's laptop. Unbelievably it was confirmed that John was the only person who was home during the time that Janet appeared. Now investigators were sure that Janet had been John all along.



They continued to deconstruct and reassemble the chat rooms conversations and found a common spelling used by every individual that posted in the chat rooms that Mark and John visited. The word 'maybe' was always spelt 'mybye'. It was evident John was pretending to be several people in the chat room and the only other person interacting with him and his many secret aliases was Mark.

Sally Hogg (Police Analyst)

'Each style of conversation was totally different—I really believed it. That was the stumbling point for me. At no point could I find he made a mistake... sometimes it would be a week or a few weeks before that character came back...The continuity and his memory were phenomenal.'

This information was passed to the prosecutors and the Judge. John was immediately arrested before he was due to set off to school. At the time of John's arrest Mark was still sat in a jail cell completely unaware that the best friend he had near fatally stabbed, played the role of every individual Mark had been communicating with in the chat room.

John

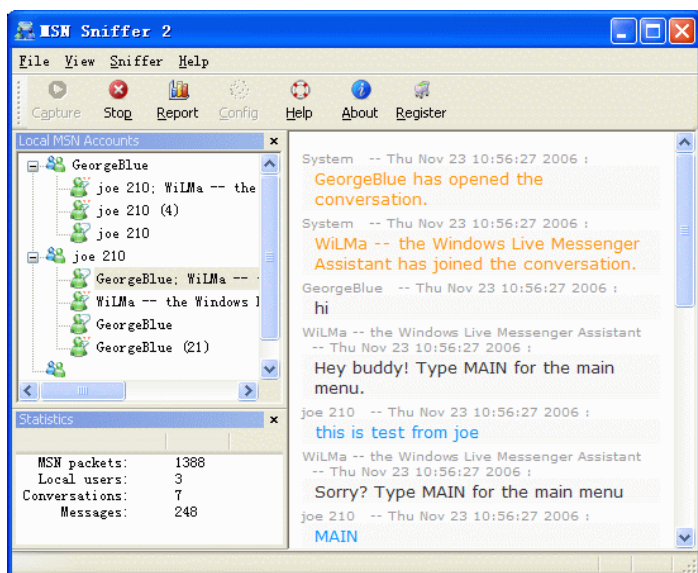
John was 14 born and raised in Greater Manchester. He had never known his father and was raised initially by his mother and her new partner. John's biological father had previously been violent towards his mother and attempted to abduct John when he was a baby. He was raised believing that his stepfather was his biological father. John's mother eventually met another partner however this relationship also soured when John was 7 years old. Once again his mother, accom-

panied by John and younger sister, left and moved to a smaller property.

Vanity Fair

'The boy is tall for his age, but slight, with olive skin, a long crooked nose, and dark, intelligent eyes framed by thick black brows poised for flight.'

John was intelligent and excelled attending a local grammar school. His mother decided it would be a good idea to buy him a new laptop for his 13th birthday to help with his studies. As John began to familiarise himself with his new laptop and the internet, he became obsessed with chat rooms. He would spend 12 hours a day there communicating with an average of 20 to 30 people.



MSN Chatroom

As his presence online increased, his life in the real world started to crumble. John became depressed as he'd fallen out of favour with his school friends and he was having regular arguments with his family, however in this new virtual world he could be anyone he wanted.

Jonathan Goldberg on John (Johns Lawyer)

'a very gentle, slightly withdrawn personality'

Rachel West

John's first constructed persona. A 16 year old girl who worked at the local gym and had long blonde hair. John, posing as Rachel, introduced himself to a young teenager called Mark.

Dr. Kirsty Smedley (Psychologist)

'He said if he had not created Rachel, then Mark would not have wanted to get close to him. He said it was important to him to keep Mark as his friend and he was not confident that Mark would be interested in just speaking to John'

Mark

Mark was a young, respectful and impressionable 15 year old who enjoyed playing football and was an only child from a working class family in Stockport.

Vanity Fair

'a bland-featured 16-year-old who possesses as his most striking traits a vast forehead, a tendency to open every sentence with "Ermmm,"'

Mark and Rachel began talking and as Mark's infatuation with Rachel grew, two days into their online relationship John stepped up to introduce himself to Mark as Rachel's brother. This was where Mark and John began an intense friendship. They kept in constant contact via forums and had conversations via their webcams. Main topics of discussion with girls, sex and masturbation.

A few months after meeting online in April 2003, Mark's teenage crush for Rachel continued. Mark had never seen Rachel as she claimed not to have a webcam. Even after arranging to meet her on several occasions and being stood up, Mark still declared his love for her. Their romance was probably wearing on John as he was playing the role of both himself and Rachel. John concocted a bizarre story in which he said that both he and his sister Rachel were in danger as a stalker was after them both.

Kevin McGregor

Another of John's aliases, Kevin also frequented the same chat rooms as the boys. He claimed that he only wrote in pink because he was gay and said that he had a fetish for feet. He described himself as a 'real stalker, a proper stalker'. He messaged and threatened Mark saying that unless he pleased himself on a webcam

and showed him his feet, he would kill Rachel. Mark naively believe this would save his virtual crush so went along with the demands.

Rachel & Mark

RW: Wank ... you wanking on camera for them?

M: Wot else can i do?

RW: Omg why is he making u wank?

M: Cos he is gay.

RW: You dont have to do anything for me.

M: I do Rach. I (L) u ...

RW: I (L) u 2.

Kevin claimed to have released Rachel however after yet another plan for Mark to meet Rachel fell through, he received another message from Kevin.

Kevin & Mark

KM: Kicked all her stomach. put her head under water. Then out. Freezing cold.... And she stained my sheets when she was bleeding! U werent there for her. However much she screamed for u.

M: How cud I have been there when i didnt kno where she woz

Mark didn't doubt the authenticity of these messages and became incredibly upset with the death of his virtual girlfriend. His school grades suffered and in turn the stress made Mark more withdrawn than ever.

John & Mark (Post Rachel's 'death')

J: you look shocked and aren't talking to me and I'm worried about you

M: im fine mate just tired

J: you are in need of wank...why are you so happy

M: i got you as a mate

Lyndsey East

Mark was slowly losing interest in his new friend so John again concocted a new persona to try and win back the heart of Mark. Mark began to engage with John's new online creation, Lyndsey, but when he expressed his growing interest in her, John again made up another bizarre story in which Lyndsey was killed by the Secret Service.

Rachel's Resurrection

At the end of April 2003 John resurrected Rachel who explained to Mark via MSN Messenger that she'd been in a coma and had giving birth to Marks baby. After telling Mark this she vanished once again. To say Mark was extremely suggestible would be an understatement as never actually met Rachel, let alone fathered her child.

Janet Dobinson

John then went on to create his final fictional character to manipulate Mark. Janet Dobinson worked for the Secret Service. She described herself as 43 but still sexy, living with her husband and two children in the suburbs. Her cover job was an estate agent and she told Mark she was the third most important woman in Britain.

Janet to Mark

JD: I'M NOT WITH TEENAGE TALK

This character seem to appeal to Mark and for John, Janet would be the tool to manipulate Mark into doing whatever he wanted. Writing in all caps, Janet ex-

pressed her interest in recruiting Mark to the Secret Service and wanted to take him up to London.

Janet & Mark

JD: WHEN WOULD LONDON BE AN AVAILABLE OPTION?

M: it would be easier to go in the day than the middle of the nite if that is possible? well i have plans for sat. i cancel them?

JD: NO WE CAN SUIT YOUR REQUIREMENTS.

JD: YOU WILL MEET THE QUEEN, PRIMINISTER, DEFENCE SECRETY, HEAD OF BSS PROTECTION, MANY INTERESTING PEOPLE.

M: kool / im nervouse

M: my mum doesnt like me missing skool and stuff. i would need to speak to her just say i am ok.

JD: SHE WOULD BE SENT PHOTOS EVERY DAY OF YOUR PROGRESS AND 2 PHONE CALLS ALLOWED.

JD: YOU WILL HAVE 15 MINUTES BRIEFING ABOUT HOW TO ADDRESS THE QUEEN BEFORE MEET-ING...IT IS COMPULSORY FOR ANYONE MEETING HER MAJESTY.

M: ok. well ill b polite as i usually am anyway...

John was caught playing truant and was discovered at Mark's house. After his truancy, John's mother decided to check his laptop and she discovered messages from Janet Dobinson. She contacted Marks parents to explain what she had found. Both parents were concerned however completely unaware that the author of the messages was in fact John.

Both boys were told under no circumstances would there be any contact with this Janet Dobinson or any mention of this Secret Service nonsense. John's mother decided to dismantle his laptop and she thought that would be the end of his online communications and he would hopefully return to his studies. John managed to reassemble his computer and rebuilt the modem. Mark clearly couldn't stay away from his communications in the forum and was soon messaging Janet again.

James Bell

Janet asked Mark to secretly act as a bodyguard for a very important teenager, James Bell, that worked for the Secret Service. James Bell only lived two miles away and it was in fact his best friend John, so Mark played the part and spent as much time around John as he could.

Janet & Mark

JD: TAKE HIM OUT OF SCHOOL FOR A DENTIST APPOINTMENT...ARE YOU SURE THIS IS OK AND NOT INCONVENIENT?

M: no its fine, better than sitting around the house... i need money... ill get some.

JD: YOU WILL RECIEVE £300,000. YOUR PAY STARTS AT MIDNIGHT TONIGHT.

Janet also told Mark ne needed to make John look gay by performing a sex act on him. Mark questioned why but Janet said she couldn't explain why but if he didn't do it she would get sacked. Once again Mark believed what he was reading spent the weekend at John's house.

A few weeks later, Mark was informed by Janet that John had an inoperable brain tumour and it's condition was terminal. According to Janet this would have far-reaching consequences for the British secret service as John was apparently worth £568 billion. The funds were held up in jewels hidden in a safe at the bottom of the ocean and only John and the Queen knew the combination.

Janet to Mark

JD: AT THE BOTTOM OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN IS A HUGE MASSIVE SAFE. ONLY A FEW COUNTRIES KNOW ABOUT IT. THE ONLY WAY TO KEEP IT SECURE IS TO ALLOW ACCESS TO ONE PERSON. THAT BEING THE QUEEN. ONLY HE CAN WALK THROUGH THE DOOR. THAT IS ONLY HALF OF WHY HE IS SO IMPORTANT. LOADS MORE THAT WE WILL LEAVE FOR ANOTHER DAY.

Then, without much preamble, Janet requested that Mark kill John. It would be a mercy killing, a kindness even, given John's condition. Both Mark and Janet would benefit and John wouldn't have to endure the drawn out suffering that his brain tumour would create.

Janet & Mark

JD: COULD YOU KILL SOMEONE CLOSE TO YOU?
YOU MIGHT BE TSTED ON THAT LATER ON.

M: Erm ... I duno.... I prob wud but i wanna kno
y.... I havent really thought about it.

JD: WELL THINK PLEASE.

M: Yeah i cud. Theres my answare.

M: Aint it murder when u kill sum1?

JD: NOT IN YOUR CASE.

Here is an extract of the conversation that took place
on the evening prior to John stabbing.

[June 28th, 8.50pm] Janet & Mark

M: he will die in the middle of Alti

JD: PLEASE

M: But that's what will happen

JD: I WOULDN'T ASK IF IT WASNT IMPORTANT

M: i understand that

JD: TRAFFORD CENTRE. MANCHESTER

M: U want me 2 take him 2 trafford centre and kill
him in the middle of trafford centre?? that's wot ur
askin me?

JD: YES

M: And jus leave him 2 die at Trafford Centre? Wot shud i say 2 him? Stand there a [minute] while i stab u?

JD: YOU LOVE HIM

M: I love him. But this has 2 be done?

JD: TAKE HIM TO A QUIET PLACE

JD: BUY KNIFE...GLOVE.

M: Where can u buy knives frm by the way?

JD: BOOTS

M: What do I do then? get help?

JD: YES I'LL GET HELP FOR YOU

Continued at 9.57pm

JD: CHANGE OF PLAN DONT WEAR GLOVE PULL KNIFE OUT AND SAY YOU TOOK IT OUT

M: ok but it will only have 1 set of fingerprints

JD: HE WORE GLOVES

M: ok

JD: 6969 ABORT CODE OK?! MUST STOP ST8 AWAY WITH 6969

M: ok

M: how wud I be told that

JD: SHOUTED OVER TANNOY

Mark was promised a reward of £80 million, a thank you from the Prime Minister at the time (Tony Blair), a career in the Secret Service and the promise of sexual favours from Janet.

Mark was instructed by Janet to buy the right type of knife as apparently a pocket knife would not be adequate. The stab wound would need to be big and an ambulance called, but not straight away. John posing as Janet, promised Mark the world and Mark was only too happy to oblige in this apparent mercy killing. Additionally, she guaranteed she would be first on the scene, posing as a Detective Superintendent so Mark wouldn't get arrested.

John to Mark

J: I got a letter today, from my doc, when i went in a few weeks ago cos i was depressed and shit ... i got a brain thingy tumour but its big.

Saturday June 28th, 2003

Mark was assigned his secret agent number for 47695 and convinced to kill his best friend.

Friday May 28th, 2004

Sentencing began at Manchester Crown Court. John, who at the time of his sentencing was 15, plead guilty to the charges of incitement to murder and perverting the course of justice. Mark also pled guilty to the charge of attempted murder.

Bizarre tale of boy who used internet to plot his own murder

Source: The Guardian

Jonathan Goldberg [QC acting for John]

'We all remember the trauma of adolescence, the particular adolescent behaviour which brings my client before the court today rises largely from his infatuation with his new internet friend. This young man admits frankly that he was not sure whether

he was gay or straight and he fell in love with his new friend. He was sophisticated beyond his years and the older boy was naive for his years'

David Maddison (Judge)

'Skilled writers of fiction would struggle to conjure up a plot such as that which arises here. It's staggering to be dealing with a case that arises out of a 14-year-old boy's invention of false personalities, false relationships and events arranged for his own killing at the hands of a 16-year-old boy who he had met via an internet chat room.'

The judge stressed that crimes of this nature would usually warrant an extremely harsh sentence, however this case was anything but ordinary, he added, each other boys was a victim of the other.

John crying as he sat in the dock, received a three years supervision order and would not be able to use the internet without supervision from an adult. He would also be banned from making any further contact with Mark. Mark was sentenced to a two years supervision order and any internet use would also need to be supervised.

Internet ‘murder’ boys told: Never see each other again

TWO schoolboys at the centre of one of the most bizarre murder plots in British legal history were free today - but banned from ever seeing each other again.

Source: Manchester Evening News

Julian Ross (Detective Chief inspector)

‘It was incitement to commit murder, his own murder. I’m not aware of any other case where this has taken place. The 14-year-old boy showed no intention to hurt anybody but himself. I’m quite convinced it was a deliberate suicide attempt’

U WANT ME 2 KILL HIM?

When a 14-year-old British boy was savagely stabbed, no one could have imagined the bizarre chat-room fantasy world that lay behind the attack. A story of a near-fatal Internet attraction.

Source: Vanity Fair

Prosecutor, Nicholas Clarke

'This case serves as a stark warning of the dangers of the dark side of the internet'

During the sentencing process, John's mother explained that since his stabbing he had developed a wide circle of friends, had a girlfriend and was seeing a psychologist regularly. Little is known about John and Mark's whereabouts 13 years later however John still remains one of the only people in the UK to be convicted of inciting his own murder.

Channel 4 Psycho: Kill me if you can

An extraordinary documentary from 2003 made by Channel 4.

Source: YouTube (Channel 4)

3. Furries

In 2009 Christopher Monks persuaded a boyfriend he met on an internet chat room to kill his parents in return for a disturbing reward.

Christopher Monks



Christopher Monks [Source: EnclopediaDramtica]

Christopher Monks biological parents had neglected him as a baby. He was fostered and subsequently adopted by Christopher Monks Sr and his wife Elizabeth. At 10 months old he was the youngest of three children in a close family, his parents were strict but loving. In 2006, three years before he planned the murder of his mother and father, Christopher began dating an older man named Alex who he had met through the internet. When his parents found out about their 21 year old son's partner, Christopher tried to run away from home. His parents managed to track him down in London where he had fled to meet Alex.

Elizabeth Monks (Christopher's Mother)

'Chris was immature. We took the computer modem away and his mobile phone as well to protect him. We wanted him to stop this relationship. About four weeks afterwards I came home from work one day and there was a note saying that by losing his computer and his phone, he had lost his friends'

Despite Christopher's age, his parents considered him more vulnerable than other 21 year olds. Christopher was diagnosed with the both dyslexia and a form of autism, asperger syndrome though this was only diagnosed by psychiatrist after he committed the crime.

Dyslexia

Dyslexia, also known as reading disorder, is characterized by trouble with reading despite normal intelligence.[2][7] Different people are affected to varying degrees.[4] Problems may include difficulties in spelling words, reading quickly, writing words, "sounding out" words in the head, pronouncing words when reading aloud and understanding what one reads... Dyslexia is believed to be caused by both genetic and environmental factors.

Source: Wikipedia

Asperger syndrome

Asperger syndrome (AS), also known as Asperger's, is a developmental disorder characterized by significant difficulties in social interaction and nonverbal communication, along with restricted and repetitive patterns of behavior and interests...The hypothesis that individuals with AS are predisposed to violent or criminal behavior has been investigated, but is not supported by data.[5][34] More evidence suggests that children diagnosed with Asperger syndrome are victims rather than offenders.[35] A 2008 review found that an overwhelming number of reported violent criminals with Asperger syndrome had also other coexisting psychotic psychiatric disorders such as schizoaffective disorder.[36]

Source: Wikipedia

The combination of the two contributed to difficulties at school and socialising. His resentment towards his parents bubbled beneath the surface for the next three years until November 2008 when Christopher met 19-year-old Shaun Skarnes through a social networking site furry4life.

Furry

The furry fandom is a subculture interested in fictional anthropomorphic animal characters with human personalities and characteristics.[1][2][3] Examples of anthropomorphic attributes include exhibiting human intelligence and facial expressions, the ability to speak, walk on two legs, and wear clothes. Furry fandom is also used to refer to the community of people who gather on the Internet and at furry conventions...When compared with the general population, homosexuality and bisexuality are over-represented in the furry fandom[14].

Sexual attraction to furry characters is a polarizing issue met with vehement opposition within the fandom; in one survey with 4300 furry respondents, 37% answered that sexual attraction is important in their furry activities, 38% were ambivalent, and 24% answered that it has little or nothing to do with their furry activities...A portion of the fandom is sexually interested in zoophilia (sex with animals), although a majority take a negative stance towards it. An anonymous survey in 2008 found 17% of respondents reported zoophilia.

Source: Wikipedia



Furries

Furry4Life

This is a social equality furry network that is ran by furries for furries. We are one of the only furry sites that focus on the offline life of furries. A furry is a fan of fictional anthropomorphic animal/creature characters with human personalities and characteristics.

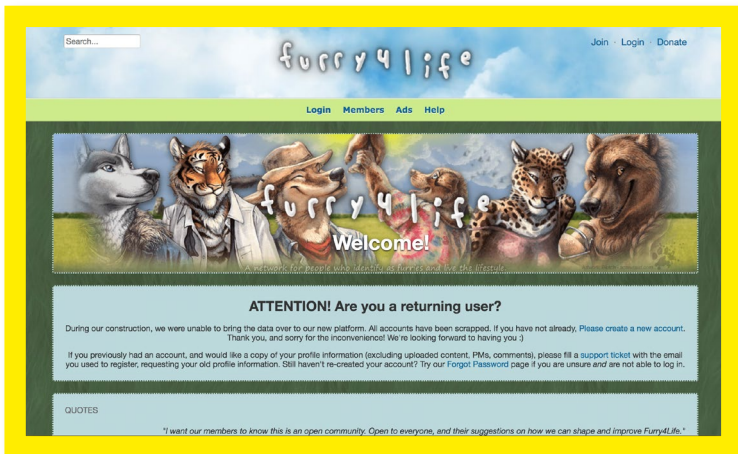
Every user's experience is different. Personally, we hope you'll enjoy it and if you like social networking, we have all the features you love:

- Create and Customize a Profile
- Add Friends
- Instant Messaging
- Desktop and Smart Phone Mobile Apps
- Locate Furs near you
- Blogging
- Upload Images
- Create Albums
- Embed YouTube Videos
- Participate in Forums
- Participate in Polls
- List your favorite websites in our Sites Area
- Post Events
- Create and manage your own Community or Group

within F4L

- Post Comments on a Profile Wall
- Get Notified when someone visits your page
- Receive and Exchange mail in the site
- Chat Rooms
- And so much more..

Source: Furry4Life



Furries are people fascinated by animals. These are given human traits like walking and talking and can be anything from cartoons to hybrids of two entirely unrelated species that cannot interbreed in real life. The Furry scene sees members dressing up and role

playing, with the majority using it as a creative outlet. Chris' furry was a fox named Rox-Yin whilst Shaun's was half-wolf half-fox and called Kira/Kyra.



Shaun Skarnes



Shaun Skarnes [Source: EnclopediaDramtica]

At 19, Shaun Skarnes was unemployed and living in a flat on his own. His relationship with his parents was strained, he had lost contact with his mother and had limited contact with his father. Shaun's childhood had been turbulent as his mother had left the family when he was just four years old. He was raised by his father who lived a rather chaotic lifestyle, and Shaun left home as soon as he could.

Shaun spent his days and nights at home communicating on forums, particularly those dedicated to the Furry community, before he began corresponding with Christopher Monks. Their online relationship started to

grow more intense. They openly discussed their dark sexual fantasies, including a shared interest in beasi-ality, cannibalism, necrophilia and genital mutilation. Christopher also felt comfortable enough to share his desire to dispose of his parents with Shaun.

Christopher & Shaun

CM: I find it a disgrace to call my family family. Cannot do anything without a tirade of questions. The only time I get to myself is when they are asleep so eternal rest is the solution.

SS: So are you willing to kill?

CM: Yes you only have to take out my parents and possibly two other family members and I can do the rest.

A later exchange

CM: So you are willing to kill. Just I cannot do my parents.

SS: Yes, I am.

The planning continued with Christopher sharing information with Shaun to prepare for the killings. The agreement was to kill Christopher's father first up-

stairs but they were concerned they would wake up the family dog. The pair of been corresponding for 3 months and had never met previously. They continue to exchange messages online detailing the plot up until Shaun's first visit to the monks house in Clayton-le-Woods near Chorley, Lancashire.

[6th February, 2009] Christopher & Shaun

SS: Are you sure you want them dead?

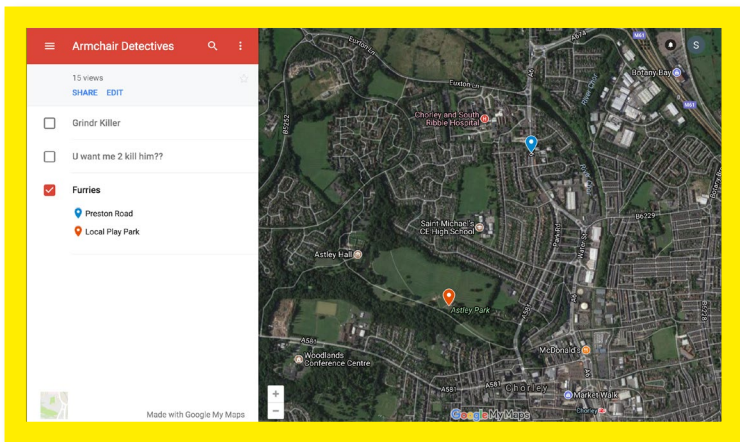
CM: Very, my pet

CM: You getting cold paws?

SS: No

7th February, 2009

Shaun made his way to Christopher's house. They played computer games for hours before Christopher's parents returned from a shopping trip. Shaun left around 9 p.m. and then Christopher settled down to watch a DVD with his parents. The Monks were told Shaun had gone to catch a train home to travel the 50 miles to Ellesmere Port in Cheshire.



The truth was Shaun was waiting in a play park nearby, until he received a text from his boyfriend telling him his parents were asleep. Christopher Sr awoke in the early hours of the morning after hearing a faint thud to find Shaun standing beside his bed clutching a kitchen knife. Christopher Sr began yelling for help to his wife who was sleeping downstairs before getting into a tussle with Shaun. He tried to pry the knife from his hands, the struggle continued and Shaun was pushed into the hallway and then into a spare bedroom. Elizabeth called the police and then rushed upstairs and then his Shaun with a stick which broke on impact. She then started to talk calmly to Shaun in an attempt to try and diffuse the situation. Surprisingly the tactic worked, soothing her husband's attacker enough so that the couple could go downstairs freely. Christopher Sr had escaped with bruised arms, a cut

palm and bitemarks. Reaching the bottom of the stairs they were met by a police officer that had just arrived at their doorstep following Elizabeth's call.

While all the commotion and shouts for help were happening upstairs, Christopher remained on the sofa deleting incriminating messages on his phone. At first he was treated as a witness but he was arrested a few hours later when the police discovered he was involved in the plot to kill his parents. Shaun Skarnes told police in his interview that he had not realised Christopher was serious about the request to kill his parents until he visited him at his home for the first time.

Shaun Skarnes to Police

'He [Christopher] said he could not do it himself because they were still his parents. At that time I thought he was joking. While I was down there in Monks home it became more serious...Christopher began to discuss methods of killing his parents while they played a video game in the living... Christopher suggested the use of a pillow or to just throttle them with his bare hands. I just laughed it off...we were just messing about. We were playing games whilst his mother was hoovering his father was in the back. At that point I still thought it was a joke'

Shaun had only realised his boyfriend was serious about murdering his mother and father as the afternoon wore on and he began to feel uneasy about their conversations. He told detectives he was scared he would lose his boyfriend if he did not go through the plan and he had few friends and was promised a place to live by Christopher.

Shaun Skarnes to Police

'In my heart of hearts I did not want to do it. I thought it was too late to go back. I didn't want to go through with it, to kill. I didn't want to hurt his parents and I didn't want to hurt my boyfriend. I was unhappy with the situation as it went on, I was trying to make him see if they were dead he would be screwed on his own. He just said he would be fine'

Shaun added that he almost didn't go through the plan when he saw Mr Monks lying in bed. But after he drop the knife this caused Christopher's father to wake up and the struggle began.

‘Computer geek in plot to kill his parents’

A Chorley computer geek plotted to kill his adoptive parents with the help of a friend he met on the internet because he was sick of being treated like a child, a court has heard.

Source: Chorley Guardian

20th July, 2009

An eight day trial began at Preston Crown Court. Shaun Skarnes sat with his head in his hands looking at the floor throughout the reading of evidence whilst Christopher Monks stared directly ahead.

Mr Watson (QC, prosecuting)

‘Mr and Mrs Monks were aware their son was bisexual, but they did not know about the very different life he was leading...Some furries have a sexual interest in animals. Monks had such a sexual interest. At the same time Christopher Monks was


User Page

Journal

Gallery

Scraps

Favorites



-rayne (Banned)

Full Name: Not Available...

User Title: Not Available...

Registered since: Feb 20th, 2007 06:11

Current email: cdm

Artist Profile: Not Available...

Page Views: 254

Submissions: 0

Comments Received: 0

Comments Given: 8

Journals: 0


Favorites: 0

Statistics

Latest Submissions

View Gallery

Favorites




Scrit New

by Males0141

view: 9 years ago


Artist Information

Shouts




ShutMouth

Posted: 7 weeks ago




slavsky

Posted: 5 years ago



ShardPhap

Posted: 6 years ago



Blackjack134

Posted: 6 years ago


User Page

Journal

Gallery

Scraps

Favorites



-kame (Banned)

Full Name: Kyra

User Title: Photographer

Registered since: Aug 29th, 2008 08:16

Current email: honey

Artist Profile: Not Available...

Page Views: 288

Submissions: 29

Comments Received: 254

Comments Given: 1057


Journals: 1

Favorites: 12

Statistics

Featured submission

Latest Submissions



He's found Jesus

Identity fraud is too easy

why is the last after a whole year do i still get damned letters for the last occupants and people from down the road

if i was evil i could open up these bank statements and shit and get myself a credit card in these people names

and i would be soo damned easy

THANKS POSTER

NOW FUCK OFF!!!

AND GET A DAMNED BRAIN

Artist Information

Species: Wolf

Age: 19

Operating system: Windows

Personal quote: god is, that's co

Music: hip-hop/rock/ RnB

Favourite movies: Latin, green mile etc

Favourite game: Halo, your series, call of duty etc

Favourite game platform: ps3 & psp

Music priority of choice: PS3

Favourite anime: Dangan and kames

Favourite website: Urfur.co.uk

Contact Information

Website: /enballe link/

Shouts

Rox-Yin & Kira

K: Can you hold your parents legs down?

RY: I can try. I'm not that strong. What are you planning?

K: Strangulation

RY: Just make sure you kill them or I'll have hell to pay

Another online conversation discussed how Shaun should bring warm clothes and portable computer games to help pass the time as he waited outside for Mr and Mrs Monks to fall asleep. Other online conversations transcripts discussed sexual fantasies with references to bestiality, cannibalism, cutting off penises and a joke about necrophilia. Text messages recovered from mobile phones alleged to have been used by the defendants were also read aloud during the eight day trial.

Man found guilty of plotting to kill parents

A former Runshaw College student and the bisexual lover he met online have been found guilty of conspiring to murder his parents.

Source: Leyland Guardian

Mr Watson (QC, prosecuting)

'Christopher did not feel able to kill his parents himself and needed someone else to do it for him'

The prosecutor told the jury Christopher had talked about his sexual desire to have his penis bitten off in an online chat room discussion.

Mr Watson (QC, prosecuting)

'It may seem extreme but there is ample evidence from websites he visited and conversations with Shaun Skarnes that this was a deeply held interest and one he found sexually stimulating. It seems that Mr Skarnes was to receive no money for killing Mr and Mrs Monk but the prospect of biting off Monks penis'

Christopher Monks told the court that on the internet he had a master and slave relationship with Shaun Skarnes.

Christopher Monks

'Due to the master and slave relationship we had it was a test I used upon my pets to see if they were willing to do many things. I suppose it was a quest to find the perfect pet who would do anything'

Christopher told the court he relied heavily on his parents and would have been unable to cope with day to day tasks if they died.

Christopher Monks

'I would struggle tremendously if I didn't have my parents. I don't know how to use a washing machine or iron or basic household tasks'

Shaun Skarnes

'Parts of the discussion were twaddle and rubbish. At the time, I thought he was still playing off frustration. I didn't know his age but just thought it was

teenage angst. I get irritated by my dad sometimes, but would not want any harm to come to him. I thought this was the same'

Shaun told the court Christopher passed him the blade when his parents fell asleep. Giving evidence he claimed he was shocked to receive the knife but thought Christopher was escalating the role play to gauge his reaction. During police questioning Shaun said he accidentally dropped the knife but was seen picking it up by Christopher's father.

John Bromley-Davenport (QC defending Christopher) & Shaun

JB: 'Would it be fair to say that all this leading up to the final events were, as far as you were concerned, roleplay?

SS: Yes

Shaun told the court he had gone to the house late at night because he had missed his train home but did not want to carry out the plot to kill Christopher's parents. He said he felt pressured into going upstairs to where Mr Monks slept but did not intend to harm his boyfriend's father.

Shaun's Facebook

'Murder on the mind'

Shaun also denied that an entry on his Facebook page referred to a plot to kill Mr and Mrs Monks. He claimed it referred to his bad mood because a train he was travelling on had broken down. He also made a reference online to 'dumping dead bodies at sea' but told the court this was a reference to a cartoon programme Family Guy, not to killing the Monks.

Elizabeth Monks

'Our adoptive son is a quiet boy who never lost his temper and did well at his temping job at an educational training centre where I also work'

Christopher Monks Sr

'We have no doubt that Christopher did not intend to go to this extreme. There is no one in our closest circle of friends who is not shocked at what has happened'

Parents stand by son who tried to have them killed

The parents of an Asperger's sufferer who tried to have them killed saw their son sentenced to an indefinite hospital order today, despite their pleas for leniency.

Source: Independent

They believed he had no intention to take their lives. Giving evidence at the trial, Christopher's parents said they were a close, loving family and that their son could not separate fantasy from reality.

Professor Digby Tantum

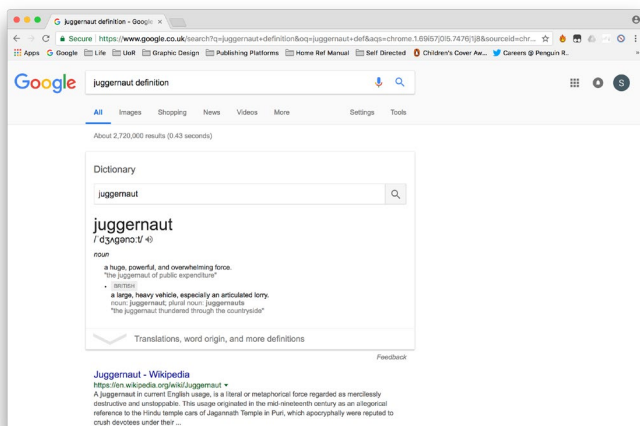
Digby John Howard Tantam (born 15 March 1948) is a British psychiatrist and Professor of Psychotherapy.[1] He is currently Clinical Professor of Psychotherapy at the University of Sheffield; Consultant Psychiatrist and Psychotherapist, Sheffield Care Trust; and a partner at Dilemma Consultancy Ltd. His main research interests are social and emotional wellbeing, emotional contagion, nonverbal communication, applied philosophy, and autism spectrum disorders.[2]

Source: Wikipedia

Professor Digby Tantum was called in by Christopher Monks' defence. He believed Christopher Monks had an autistic spectrum disorder and possibly Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) which may impair his understanding of the outcome of his actions and of others feelings.

Professor Digby Tantum

'It makes it very difficult to anticipate consequences. You live in a short term world really. For one thing I think it would be impossible for him to know what Shaun Skarnes was feeling. What Christopher Monks might have felt was that this was a juggernaut out of control that he didn't know how to deal with'



A jury of seven men and five women at Preston Crown Court took just an hour to find both men guilty of conspiracy to murder. Elizabeth Monks sobbed into her husbands chest as the jury former announced the unanimous decision. Following the hearing the couple were too emotional to make comment.

7th January, 2010

Mr Justice McCombe

'It was a most unusual case...no court could fail to be moved by the unstinting love they have for their son notwithstanding the enormity of the offence he committed. In their own words in a letter sent to me they say "whatever sentence is passed, we will serve it with him"...But I do not have the slightest hesitation in that both men are a risk to the public..I recognise that Mr and Mrs Monk find this difficult to accept but the court has the duty to protect the public and ensure they are not released into the community until the risk is eliminated'

Christopher Monks case information

Source: The Law Pages

Shaun Skarnes case information

Source: The Law Pages

Andy Murphy (Detective Sergeant)

'I can understand the families position, but from a police point of view, the Judge confirmed what we thought. These two pose a very serious risk of harm to the public...This case demonstrated a new type of offending in which this conspiracy took place in the ether of cyberspace. However, we showed that we understood its dynamics and secured convictions'

Shaun Skarnes was given a seven year indeterminate prison sentence and was required to serve a minimum of 3 1/2 years in prison. Christopher Monks was sentenced to a hospital order under the [Mental Health Act](#).

Son convicted of plot to kill over-protective parents

Christopher Monks has been convicted of plotting to kill his adoptive parents with a friend he met on the internet, because he thought they were over-protective and treated him like a child.

Source: The Telegraph

Autistic son who asked internet friend to kill his 'overprotective' parents detained in hospital

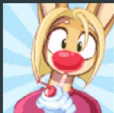
An autistic man was sentenced to an indefinite hospital order today after plotting to kill his adoptive parents with a friend he met on a fetish website just three months earlier.

Source: Daily Mail

He will receive treatment at a specialist care facility until experts deem him ready to be released. Nothing is known of where he is, whether he is still being treated at a hospital or whether he has been granted release.

Rox-Yin & Kira

Traces of Rox-Yin and Kira, their furry alter egos, can be found online. The accounts on furry pages have been left dormant since the crime.



LuniqueKero

Posted: 7 years ago

LIK 2 BITE PENIS AMIRIGHT?



obiterator1100

Posted: 7 years ago

Hahahahahaha ohmahgod a penis biting assassination attempt, thats just superb xD



Yamasaji

Posted: 8 years ago

Hahahahaha, that was hilarious



Schwalbe262

Posted: 8 years ago

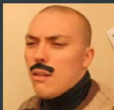
AH HAHHAHAHAHA!



Neo-chan

Posted: 8 years ago

freak, you are the ind of person that gives furries a bad name



PhillLynott

Posted: 8 years ago

LOL

You tried to kill people.

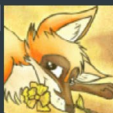


ShardPrime

Posted: 6 years ago

Looooooooooooo!

Sankakucomplex ftw.



Prippit

Posted: 7 years ago

It appears people aren't very fond of you xD - Regardless, I thought you were sound at the Leicester meet, despite your apparent insanity. I guess first impressions can be deceiving.



BlackJack8134

Posted: 7 years ago

ITT: Moar newfag furies trying to look cool by leaving hateful comments on the userpage of a b& user.



Diabolo2000

Posted: 7 years ago

Your famous

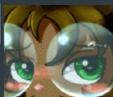
http://encyclopedia-dramatica.com/Rox-YIn_%26_Kira



QuixoticMutt

Posted: 7 years ago

Shout out to me if you were brought here via Encyclopedia Dramatica!!!



Trancua

Posted: 7 years ago

You suck at life AND at knife-wielding. CONGRATULATIONS

4. #findhelen

Ian Stewart lived on Baldock Road in Royston with his fiancée successful author Helen Bailey. The couple shared their home with Ian's two sons from a previous marriage and Helen's miniature Dachshund called Boris. Ian and Helen had planned their wedding for September 2016 but in April of that year, Helen had disappeared. A note left believed to be written by Helen requested that no one contact her she needed some time alone. Over the next few months appeals for her whereabouts were made by family and friends along with most national newspapers to answer the question, where is Helen Bailey?

Helen Bailey



Helen Bailey & her dog, Boris [Source: Cambridge News]

Born in Newcastle upon Tyne on August 22nd, 1964. She was raised along with a younger brother John by mother Eileen and father George in the village of Ponteland, Northumberland. She loved animals and as a child she said she wanted to be a pony riding, story writing, forensic scientist who worked part time as a vet. Helen attended Ponteland High School.

Helen

'Whilst at school I used to sit and stare out of the window, dreaming of anything but lessons, then go home and write pages and pages in my diary of

who did what to whom and (usually) why wasn't I part of it.'

She left with what she described as 'spectacular disastrous A-level results'. She liked the idea of being called Dr Bailey so she would go on to study physiology at Thames Polytechnic in London, hoping to become a forensic scientist. The reality of studying was quite different from what she imagined. Helen slowly got bored and decided to take a year out. She obtained a job working as an office temp before she looking to return to the science lab. While in her new role Helen learned how to touch type and found that she enjoyed working more so than studying so she elected not to go back in favour of being a secretary full time. In 1987 Helen began working for a licensing rights company and it was there she met her first husband.

John Sinfield



John Sinfield & Helen Bailey [Source: Daily Mail]

A former BBC executive that would later set up a company of his own where he would handle the merchandising rights for E.T. and Garfield, amongst others. John and Helen moved to north London and in May 1996 the couple were married in Barbados.

Electra Brown

Helen was an avid writer and it was during her downtime in 2002 between the negotiating licensing contracts, she began writing short stories and young adult fiction. In 2008 *Life at the Shallow End* was published,

aimed at a teenage audience. It was the first book in the hugely successful Electra Brown series. Over the next few years she would go on to write a number of novels with her fast paced easy-to-read style gaining her substantial following.



Electra Brown series

Sunday 27th February, 2011

As Helen and her husband were both workaholics, Helen persuaded John that they needed a break and the couple decided to return to Barbados for a relaxing holiday. Once there Helen and John set off to the beach. The sea was calm so John decided to go for a morning swim.

As Helen lay sunbathing she watched her husband from the shore. Moments later she heard his calls for help. As John had been swimming he was caught in a riptide and was pulled out to sea by the current.

Helen

*'I could just hear, either in my head or out loud,
'But I'm wearing a bikini. But I'm wearing a bikini'.
It just seemed such a bizarre thing — to have your
husband die while you're wearing a bikini and flip-
flops.'*

Riptide

A riptide is a strong, offshore current that is caused by the tide pulling water through an inlet along a barrier beach. It is a strong tidal flow of water within estuaries and other enclosed tidal areas. They become the strongest where the flow is constricted...During these falling and ebbing tides, a riptide can carry a person far offshore.

Source: Wikipedia

Among the screams for help and pleas to someone on a jet ski to rescue him, there was little that could be done. John was rushed to hospital but sadly he couldn't be saved. That day Helen's world changed forever and she flew home without a husband on March 3rd.

Once she arrived home Helen began to channel her pain into a blog called Planet Grief which was a brutally honest review of the bereavement process, a battle to come to terms with the loss of her husband.

A few words about John Sinfield

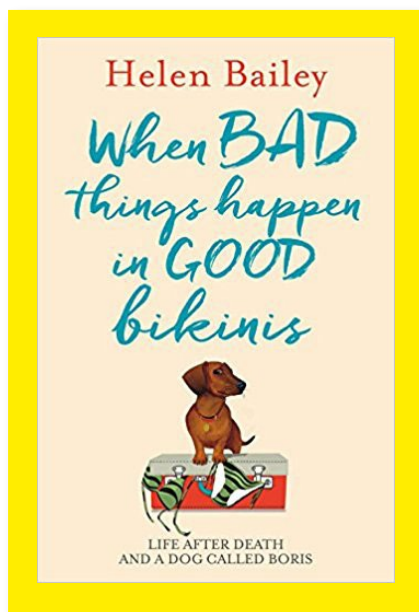
On Thursday 24th March the funeral will take place of UK licensing veteran John Sinfield.

Source: Licensing Industry Merchandisers' Association

Helen Bailey

'On that fateful day I was a wife at breakfast and a widow by lunch'

The writing on her blog won her a very different audience as her unfiltered approach resonated with the large number of readers who had gone through similar circumstances and shared her pain. The blog would later to be turned into a successful memoir *When Bad Things Happen In Good Bikinis*, the title being a reference to her sunbathing while her late husband wandered into the ocean for the last time.



When BAD things happen in GOOD bikinis

Ian Stewart



Ian Stewart & Helen Bailey [Source: The Sun]

Ian Stuart was an only child in Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire in 1960. His mother Brenda was a secretary and his father Keith worked as a teacher. He attended grammar school but his childhood was a difficult one. His mother had suffered from postnatal depression which lead to severe bouts of obsessive compulsive disorder. Ian wouldn't bring his friends home as he felt too embarrassed fearing what his mother might do or say. Ian went on to study computer science at Salford University and received a first.

Seven months after the death of her husband Helen corresponded with Ian while using a Facebook be-

reavement group. Ian also lost his partner who died suddenly in 2010. The two exchanged funny emails and the odd witty text before arranging to meet at the National Portrait Gallery which was followed by trip to the cinema. The date didn't go as planned as Helen was still feeling the grief of losing her husband but they decided to slow things down. They did meet again and after some time in each other's company they began to fall in love. Helen wrote to the followers on her blog that this was the happy ending she said desperately wanted after the death of her first husband John. Ian successfully applied for a job working at a computer processing company in Hitchin before he decided to start a PhD in Cambridge. He eventually gave up working towards his PhD in favour of a well paid job as a computer technician, a decision he apparently regrets.

Diane Lem



Diane Lem [Source: Daily Mail]

Diane met Ian at University and they were married during the mid 80s. Ian and his wife went on to buy their first home, a semi-detached house in Cambridge. They had two sons before settling down in Basingbourne, a parish 14 miles southwest from Cambridge. Diane worked as a school secretary and also suffered from epilepsy. In one particularly severe episode she had a fit after the birth of one of her sons and was banned from driving for 3 years. Despite this Diane was physically active often jogging and taking aerobics classes

It was during 1995 that Ian's health began to deteriorate as he was diagnosed with myasthenia gravis. Ian had an operation to relieve some of the symptoms but this left him with one vocal cord and his health declined further. He was signed off work indefinitely and received financial support payments for his condition.

Myasthenia gravis

Myasthenia gravis (MG) is a long-term neuromuscular disease that leads to varying degrees of skeletal muscle weakness.[1] The most commonly affected muscles are those of the eyes, face, and swallowing.[1] It can result in double vision, drooping eyelids, trouble talking, and trouble walking.

Source: Wikipedia

The couple integrated themselves into their local community and the pair were members of the local bowls club. Diane would organise the team social events and Ian acted as the club treasurer. He took his position seriously. His work was impeccable though Ian would become very animated on the odd occasion when he was asked to contribute even a minor amount of additional funds beyond his membership fee.

Bill Manley (Chairman)

'Ilan was very very money orientated. In our Bowls Club he was the treasurer and I remember two events, one was when our irrigation tank needed replacing and everyone was asked to chip in a tenner. Ian was the only one who refused and said he paid membership and shouldn't have to pay anymore. The other event was when we had a club final and at the end there was a nice tea which people have to pay £3 for. He went ballistic. I had to grab him and take him to one side to tell him to shut up and stop embarrassing the club or go home'

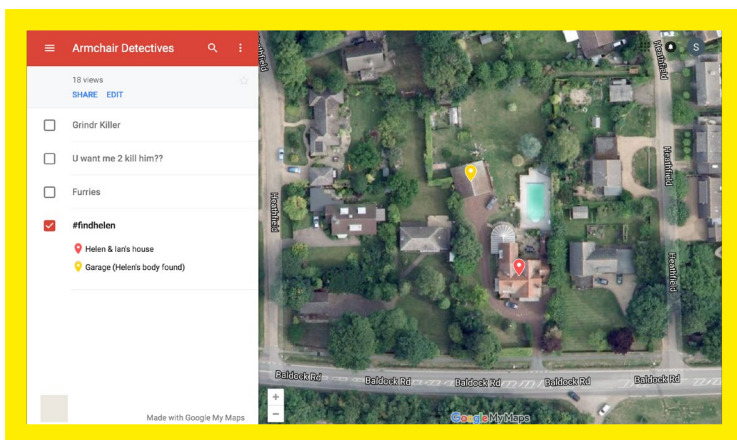
Even with Ian's outbursts from the outside couple seemed happy despite being two very different people. Diane was sensitive, outgoing and seen as a pillar of the local community however Ian was more reserved and would often become introverted when the couple would go out.

25th June, 2010

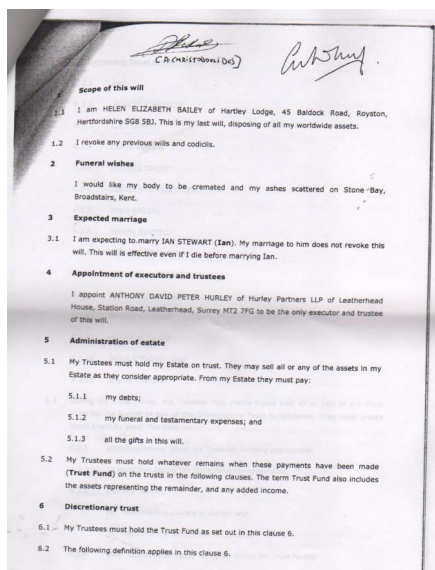
Whilst Ian was in the kitchen he watched as his wife had an epileptic fit on the couples back patio. Ian called paramedics and they attempted to revive Diane but sadly she passed away. Diane was just 47 years

old. Two post-mortems were completed and there was an inquest into her death but no criminal investigation was undertaken. Her death certificate stated that she died from a sudden unexpected death in epilepsy and the circumstances were not seen as suspicious. Ian was left to care for his two sons who were 15 and 18 at the time. He received a payout of around £80,000 from three separate life insurance policies. A year later he would meet Helen Bailey.

In 2013, after Ian and Helen had been together for a few years, Helen sold her property in Highgate and Ian sold his home in Basingbourne. The couple moved to a new property valued at £1.5 million in Baldock Road, Royston in Hertfordshire. Helen's mother Eileen felt uneasy about the couples relationship but as she was in constant contact with her daughter she was just glad that Helen was happy again after the death of her first husband.



In 2014 Helen amended her will leaving a large portion of her fortune to Ian as she felt that he might be financially vulnerable if she died and registered power of attorney in May 2015, which would grant Ian and her brother John control of her financial affairs if she became unfit to administrate her estate. After a number of false starts due to illness and circumstances, the couple finally agreed to tie the knot in September 2016 and told a very select group of friends and family to keep their diaries free.



Helen Bailey's will [Source: The Sun]

Monday 11th April, 2016

Early morning

Ian woke up before Helen and made her scrambled eggs for breakfast.

8.16 am – 10.58 am

Helen used her iPad to browse the internet in search for wedding venues.

11.43 am – 12.59 pm

Ian Stewart showed no signs of activity. Ian had told the police that Helen loaded his car with some items to be taken to the tip. One of the items for disposal was a duvet cover, this had been soiled as Helen had been unwell.

2.45 pm

Ian reported he left his home. A witness stated to police they saw a woman that afternoon matching Helen's description walking on a path near Bal-dock Road around 2.45 pm wearing a green coat.

3.08 pm

A friend tried to call Helen however the call went straight to voicemail.

3.18 pm

Helen's mobile phone had been switched off and would never connected to a mobile network again

5.15 pm

Ian returns home but neither Helen nor her dog Boris were at the property. It was assumed that Helen had taken Boris out for a walk and hadn't returned.

Ian to Helen

IS: Please let us know you're okay. Everyone seems worried.

Helen's brother John later travelled to her holiday home at Broadstairs, Kent, rang the doorbell and looked through the letterbox but there was no answer. He put a note through the door and passed his contact

details to Helen's neighbours asking them to contact him if she eventually turned up.

Friday 15th April, 2016

As John gets increasingly worried about Helen's disappearance, Ian rings 101, a non-emergency number, to report his fiancée missing. She had apparently left a note, telling Ian she needed some space and to not contact her. Her suitcase and passport hadn't been taken so it was not likely Helen had travelled far.

Shortly after the call Nicole Goodyear, a police sergeant, arrived at the couple's home to carry out a check of the property. An extensive search of the home and all out buildings were undertaken however there was no trace of Helen. Ian was asked by authorities why it had taken him so long to report her disappearance and he explained that Helen would have been angry if he had done so and she had reappeared. There was also some concern, given Helen's notoriety, it would have created speculation in the press and her

family were wary of what this could do to her reputation.

The police and her brother John asked to see the note she had left Ian however Ian told them that he must of disposed of it accidentally. Later that day Ian sent Helen an email telling her how much he loved her.

Saturday 16th April, 2016

Ian drove to Broadstairs in search of Helen.

Thursday 21st April, 2016

Police arrived at Ian and Helen's home to ensure that Helen wasn't located somewhere in the grounds of the large property. Sniffer dogs were brought in however they could find no trace of a body. A cesspit in the garden was drained, although this also turned up nothing.

Friday 22nd April, 2016

Police conducted their first interview with Ian. They found no new clues as to where Helen might be. Police also confirmed that the woman spotted by a witness walking her dog in a green coat on 11th April was not Helen.

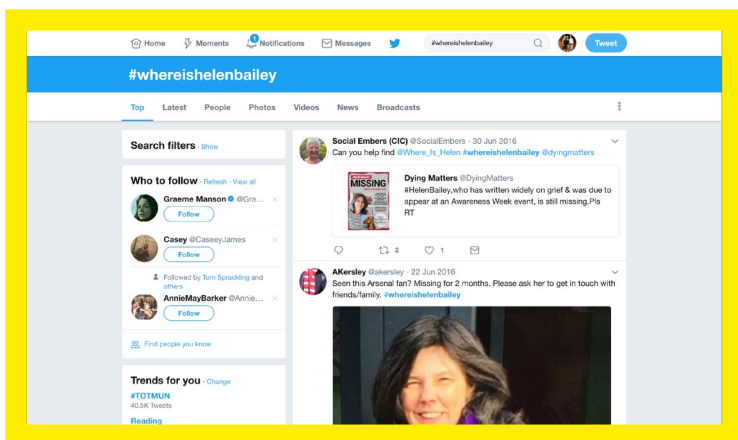
An extensive search by friends and family was undertaken. Flyers with a picture of Helen with her dog were circulated.



Missing flyers [Source: Cambridge News]

#whereishelenbailey and #findhelen were both used to promote the search for Helen via social media and a twitter and facebook account were both created.





The Hertfordshire Police Force sent out a number of tweets regarding Helen's disappearance which were retweeted by author J.K. Rowling. Whilst this brought new attention to the case it also heightened speculation surrounding Helen's disappearance.



4th May, 2016

A second interview was undertaken with Ian Stewart.

Over the following weeks and months both Helen's family and Ian made a number of appeals to the public in the hope that someone might have spotted her. It was uncharacteristic for her to just disappear.

Chief Inspector for Hertfordshire Police

'There has been no financial activity but we know she had instantly available large sums of cash'

During the month of June Ian travelled to Spain for a holiday and also renewed his season ticket for Arsenal FC. A number of articles appeared in most UK national newspapers asking the question

11th July, 2016

At 7 a.m. eighteen police officers arrived at the home of Helen Bailey and Ian Stewart. Detective Sergeant Dave Sharpe from the major crime team introduced himself to Ian who was half asleep and still wearing his dressing gown. The Detective Sergeant explains what his team at doing at the property.

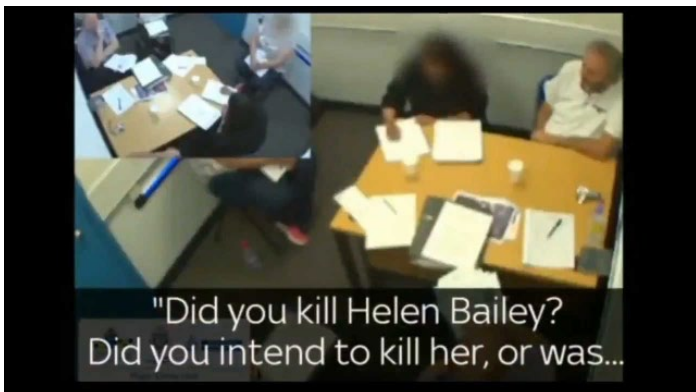
'You're joking!': Watch the moment a confused Ian Stewart is arrested

Ian Stewart, of Baldock Road in Royston, has been found guilty of the murder of his fiancée, children's author Helen Bailey

Source: Cambridge News



asked if Helen had been found. Once at the station, after Ian had been processed, he was interviewed however remained silent throughout.



Ian was released on bail 24 hours later.

12th July, 2016

Police began to reexamine the couples home in Royston. A police officer looked underneath the white jeep which belonged to Helen and discovered a hatch cover that haven't been spotted during the initial search for property in April 2016. A piece of plywood covered the hatch which had been painted the same colour as the garage floor. The officer lifted the plywood and attempted to open the cover however it was securely fastened. After a number of failed attempts the hatch was finally prised open revealing a cesspit.

15th July, 2016

A specialist drainage team arrived. Sgt Stephen Oliphant had to use a garden hoe to break the crust that sat on top of the fluid. He stirred the tool in the cesspit and hit upon something large. As he slowly push the hoe against the weight of the sewage a human arm began to emerge.



Cesspit where Helen Bailey's body was found [Source: The Sun]

The body which looked to be fully intact and clearly female was recovered. Alongside the body was a pillowcase, a dogs chew toy and the remains of a miniature Dachshund. Ian Stuart was again arrested and the following day he was charged with the murder of his fiance Helen Bailey.

12th December 2016

Over the months that followed the prosecution began to build a case against Ian Stewart. His defence team submitted their case statement. Ian was being charged with one count of murder, one count of fraud, one count of preventing a lawful burial and three counts of perverting the course of justice. His defence team alleged that he was being subjected to blackmail by two men called Nick and Joe and that they were most likely responsible for Helens murder. The defence explained these two men must have placed Helens body in the cesspit in order to make it look like Ian had been involved. Ian denied all charges against him and his trial would take place a month later.

Tuesday 10th January, 2017

At 10am a trial began at St Albans Crown Court. The charges were read aloud and the Judge told the jury it was very important this was a trial by jury, not by press report. The prosecution alleged that on the morning of April 11th, 2016 Ian Stuart gave Helen Bailey a significant amount of zopiclone in her breakfast which likely rendered her almost unconscious and between 10:51 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. she was suffocated.

Helen Bailey murder trial day one: Children's author fiance accused of killing and dumping her in cesspit

Live updates from the first day of the murder trial into Royston author Helen Bailey at St Albans Crown Court

Source: Cambridge News

Zopiclone

Zopiclone (brand names Zimovane and Imovane) is a nonbenzodiazepine hypnotic agent used in the treatment of insomnia...As zopiclone is sedating, it is marketed as a sleeping pill. It works by causing a depression or tranquilization of the central nervous system. After prolonged use, the body can become accustomed to the effects of zopiclone. When the dose is then reduced or the drug is abruptly stopped, withdrawal symptoms may result. Daily or continuous use of the drug is not usually advised, and caution must be taken when the compound is used in conjunction with antidepressants, sedatives or other drugs affecting the central nervous system.

Zopiclone is sometimes used as a method of suicide. [72] It has a similar fatality index to that of benzo-diazepine drugs, apart from temazepam, which is particularly toxic in overdose.[73][74][75] Deaths have occurred from zopiclone overdose, alone or in combination with other drugs.[76][77][78] Overdose of zopiclone may present with excessive sedation and depressed respiratory function that may progress to coma and possibly death...Zopiclone may be measured in blood, plasma, or urine by chromatographic methods.

Source: Wikipedia

The jury was told that Ian had been slowly drugging Helen, placing a sedative in her breakfast each day. The prosecutor told the court that the murder was financially motivated as Ian would be set to inherit a large sum of cash, pension payments, Helen's property and a life insurance policy that was said to be worth more than a £1 million.

Stuart Trimmer (QC) opening statement

'Helen Bailey and her dog were killed. The body of Helen was put in a cesspit underneath the garage of her home in which she lived. In the weeks before her murder Helen was concerned she was unnaturally sleepy. The crown's case is that the defendant secretly administered a sleeping drug to

her over the course of a few months. He had been prescribed the drug himself for sleeping problems. The Crown would say this, once Helen Bailey was effectively sedated, suffocation would have been quite simple enabling the defendant to kill her. It is possible to exclude the possibility of natural disease contributing to death. There was no injuries of assault or restraint, no damage was done to her before she was put in that pit. So how was it that she died? The Crown say this defendant killed her as part of a long-standing plan which involve the sedation of her. There was increasing momentum towards the business of getting married and clear progress that Stewart would be financially secure. This murder was planned from earley 2016, there was no doubt Steward would benefit financially. This was a cold-blooded murder, the defendant shows the method to obscure it and set about to do just that'

In the second day of the trial, forensic pathologist Dr Nathaniel Cary took to the stand. He explained that Helen showed no indication of broken bones, no evidence of bruising around her neck and no signs that she'd been struck over the head.

Helen Bailey murder trial DAY TWO: Children's author fiancé accused of drugging her for months before killing

Live updates from Royston author Helen Bailey murder trial at St Albans Crown Court

Source: Cambridge News

Nathaniel Cary (Pathologist)

'It's unlikely the natural causes resulted or played any part in Helens death'

Dr Cary took samples of Helen's hair once her body had been recovered. The results highlighted that she had been given zopiclone during the period between early February to April 2016. The drug was also found in Helen's chest cavity fluid, liver and muscle tissue however the drug had never been prescribed to her.

Helen had previously told family members that she had become extremely fatigued and was concerned that she was unnaturally sleepy. She searched the internet to find out what could be the cause.

Helen's internet search history

'I'm so tired why do I keep falling asleep?'

'Falling asleep in the afternoon'

Helen told her brother John that she was concerned as this mystery condition was also making her forgetful. During one occasion on March 13th 2016, Helen left her dog Boris on the beach. This was very unlike her as she saw Boris as one of the family and he would never leave her side.

Helen Bailey murder trial DAY THREE: Author joked old well 'would be a good place to hide a body'

Live updates from Royston author Helen Bailey murder trial at St Albans Crown Court

Source: Cambridge News

Helen to John

'It feels like I am fighting against a wind that doesn't exist'

Helen also told her mother during the month leading up to her disappearance that she didn't even recognise our own hands while she was working at her computer. Both her brother John and her mother attributed this to stress and exhaustion. It transpired that Ian had been prescribed the drug at the start of 2016 as he had been having problems sleeping.

Nathaniel Cary (Pathologist)

'It is relevant the deceased appears to have been intoxicated with zopiclone at the time of her death. It's possible she could have been put down the well in an unconscious state, that would be another possibility to consider...Not only was Helen concealed by a third party but it seems likely she also died at the hands of a third-party by some means'

Boris



Boris [Source: BBC]

Details of the post mortem examination completed on Helen's dog Boris was also presented. Boris was 7 to 8 years old in good health prior to his death.

Dr Jonathan Williams (Vet)

'Due to the very poor preservation of the carcass due to severe post mortem self digestion, the interpretation was extremely compromised. It cannot therefore be established whether the animal was alive or dead when placed in the septic tank. The cause of death cannot be determined from the post-mortem.'

In the days that followed, the jury visited the couples home on Baldock road and they were also played the call made by Ian to a non emergency number on April 15th 2016. Ian made the call as he was under pressure from those concerned about Helen's health and safety. During the second week of the trial, Jamie Stewart, one of Ian's sons took to the stand.

Listen to the moment murder suspect Ian Stewart reported fiancée Helen Bailey missing

Audio of Stewart's phone call to the police was heard in court, and has now been released to the public

Source: Cambridge News

He stated that on April 11th, 2016, he had been out for most of the day working and then playing bowls. He spoke to his father over the phone before meeting him later. The two had dinner and no mention was made of Helen's disappearance. The next day when Jamie enquired where she was, his father explained that Helen had gone to Broadstairs to have some time to herself.

20th January, 2017

The court heard from Nicole Goodyear, a police sergeant who visited the couples home.

Nicole Goodyear

'I spoke to Ian Stewart. He was very interested in what we were doing, he wanted to follow us everywhere. He was inquisitive as to why we were doing a thorough search. Everything we did was questioned. He was there watching our every single move, he was almost right on top of me.'

CCTV evidence

Prosecution presented CCTV footage of the afternoon of April 11th in which Ian can be seen travelling to a local rubbish tip in Royston. He can be seen disposing of a large white object which looks to be a duvet.



Missing WiFi router [Source: Cambridge News]

8th February, 2017

Ian Stewart took to the witness stand and the defence put forward their case. Ian admitted that the note allegedly left by Helen was a spur of the moment lie. She had in fact been kidnapped by two men called Nick and Joe. He hadn't told the police about the kidnapping as he was concerned for Helen's safety. Ian claimed that he had no choice but to deceive those closest to Helen.

'There's no way I killed Helen'

Ian Stewart takes to the stand in Royston murder trial

Source: Royston Crow

The two men in question were said to be business associates of Helen's previous husband John Sinfield. They had threatened both Ian and Helen at their property on numerous occasions and Ian claimed they were looking for some old paperwork from John's past business deals. Ian explained that even after his arrest he didn't tell police for fear of what these men might do as they had killed Helen's dog Boris.

Ian was told by the men to take Helen's mobile phone to the property in Broadstairs. The police confirmed that Ian travelled there after his phone was reported pinging off a mast at 1:24 p.m. on April 16th. Helen's mobile phone then connected to the WiFi router in Broadstairs. Ian explained that apparently one of the men, Nick, who was heavily tattooed visited him on April 15th and was assaulted by Nick.

Nick to Ian (allegedly)

'You don't seem to understand how serious it is. This is really serious. If you don't do what we say, or tell the police or anyone, you won't see Helen again... make sure I see you in Broadstairs tomorrow'

Ian told the court he arrived at a cliff edge on the curve of the bay at Broadstairs and handed over Hel-

en's mobile phone. The phone was then disposed of by Nick and Joe who wouldn't let Ian speak to Helen, it was never recovered by detectives.

Ian to the jury

'I felt suicidal. I felt like harming myself in Broadstairs. I just wanted everything to stop. I was on the top of a cliff. I climbed over the railings'

Simon Russell Flint QC, who was acting on behalf of the defence, said that the standing order which had been changed had in fact been done so by Helen. The defence told the court the author had plans to renovate a spare room in the house as a surprise for Ian. The only reason why Ian went on to access the couples joint account, was his concern that the two men, Nick and Joe, may have stolen money from it. In addition, the reason Ian can be heard saying 'I don't know why the garage door is open' on the day of his arrest related to a concern that the property had been burgled.

Under cross examination by the prosecution, Stuart Trimmer presented evidence that a fragment of information relating to the standing order amendment had been found on the hard drive of Ian's laptop. Analysis by forensic experts concluded that Ian had attempted

to erase its contents, but not all the data was deleted leaving a segment of information that could be recovered.

The prosecution also suggested that Nick and Joe were a figment of Ian Stewart's imagination, but the description and names were modelled on people he knew when he'd lived in Basingbourne. Both of these individuals, Joe and Nick, were asked to enter the courtroom briefly and the similarity between the description that Ian initially gave and their physical appearance was quite evident. Ian Stuart denied that these were the same individuals he had described.

Helen Bailey murder trial: Ian Stewart cross-examined

Live updates from Royston author Helen Bailey murder trial at St Albans Crown Court

Source: Cambridge News

21st February, 2017

After a 6 week trial the jury of 7 men and 5 women retired to consider their verdict. This was reached only five and a half hours later.

22nd February, 2017

Ian Stuart was found guilty of murder, fraud, three counts of perverting the course of justice and one count of preventing a lawful burial. Ian closed his eyes as the charges were read out. As he left the courtroom, he looked at his eldest son. His son did not return his father's gaze and Ian was taken from the court to Bedford prison.

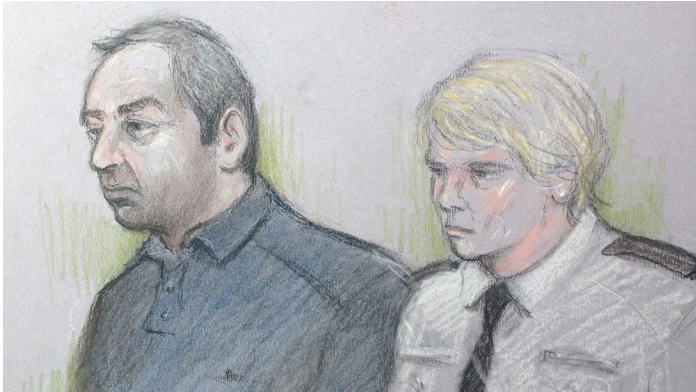
Jerome Kent (Detective Chief Inspector)

Charles White (Senior Prosecutor)

John Bailey (Helen's brother)

23rd February, 2017

Sentencing began at St Albans Crown Court.



Court sketch of Ian Stewart

Judge Andrew Bright (QC) to Ian Stewart.

'I am firmly of the view that you currently pose a very real danger to women with whom you form a relationship. I have read the impact statement of Helen Bailey's brother, John, dated the 14th February 2017 in which he sets out the effect of which your cruel murder of his sister has had and will continue to have on him. Helen's mother and father and her many close friends who all feel an enormous sense of outrage at the way she and her dog

Boris met their deaths at your hands. As John Bailey rightly observes, the world has lost a gifted author and her family and friends will have to live for the rest of their lives with the deep sense of loss your wicked crime has inflicted upon them. Whilst we will never know if you may have had some additional motive for killing the woman who loved you and wanted to be your wife, I am in no doubt that this was a clear case of murder done in the expectation of gain with aggravating features which make it difficult to imagine a more heinous crime.'

Helen Bailey murder trial: Killer Ian Stewart's web of lies

Source: Cambridge News

Ian Stewart was sentenced to life in prison and will have to serve a minimum of 34 years before he is considered for release. Due to his health issues, he will likely end his days behind bars as he will be eligible for parole on January 22nd 2051 when he is 90 years old. Ian Stewart will never see a penny of Helen's fortune. Her estate is to be split between her friends, relatives, favourite charities and Ian Stewart's sons.

Helen Bailey murder trial: A timeline of events

The News puts the key dates cited in the murder trial in chronological order

Source: Cambridge News

Helen Bailey murderer Ian Stewart jailed for 34 years

Source: BBC

Jerome Kent (DCI)

'It would be expected of me to have to look into Diane's death following this conviction, to see if there was anything that could be done. It is not a criminal investigation, it is not a murder investigation, there are no suspects. When someone is convicted of murder or involved in murder, it is only right you would look back at their past.'

Ian Stewart's sons

'We are fully aware of the re-examination of Diane's death and support the police in their actions and would like to thank the police for how they have supported our family during this difficult time.'

What DID happen to the first wife of Helen Bailey's killer?

Troubling questions over outgoing secretary who left family bewildered when she dropped dead from epilepsy and left her murderous husband with £80,000

Source: Daily Mail

Eileen (Helen's mother)

'It is so sad because Helen was so close to both his sons. Now his parents have to go through all this. I feel sorry for them...You see on TV about people going missing and never being found. That was our biggest fear, but we brought her body home. She was here at home with us the night before her funeral. That felt right somehow.'

Helen Bailey, children's writer

Helen Bailey, the author, who has died aged 51, was best known for her teen fiction about a girl called Electra Brown, a cheerful, mouthy 14-year old schoolgirl obsessed with make-up, snogging, spots and whether she should dye her hair.

Source: The Telegraph

Helen Bailey's case serves as a stark warning that although she suffered no reported physical abuse at the hands of Ian Stewart before her death, she was a victim of **coercive control** which is more common than we might think. The act is identified when a perpetrator repeatedly behaves in a way that makes the victim feel controlled, dependent, scared or isolated. Often the perpetrator acts in such a way that the victim does not even realise they are being abused. For more details visit **nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk**.